Monday, November 3, 2025 No 303 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

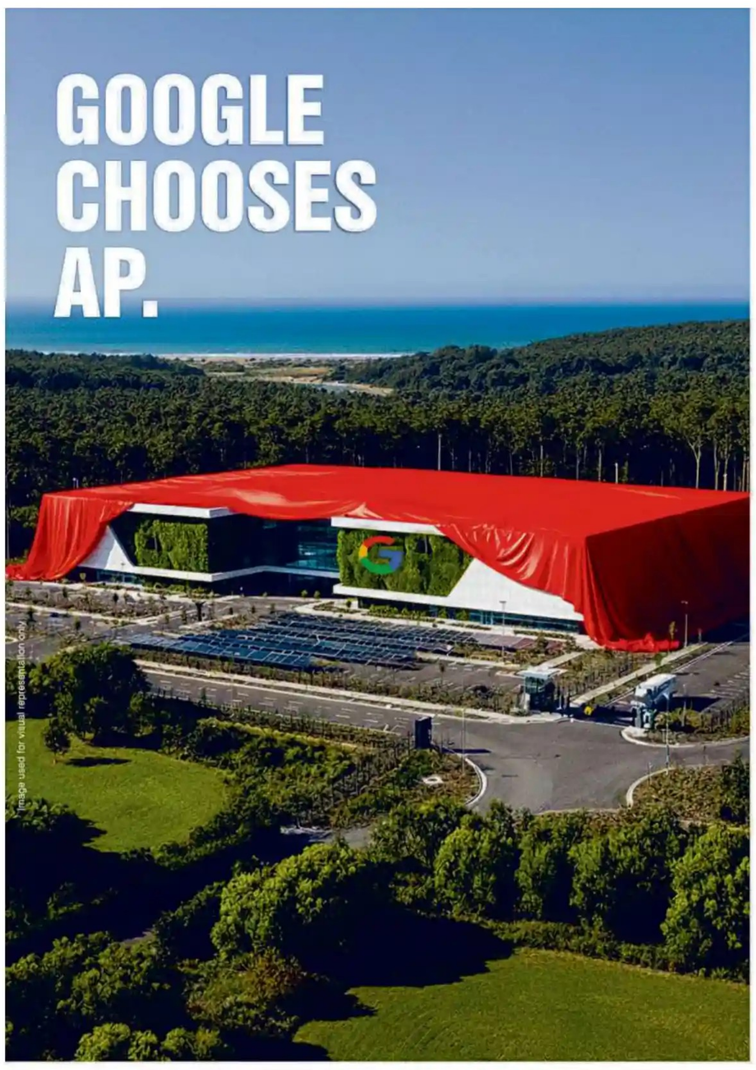
The Power of Good

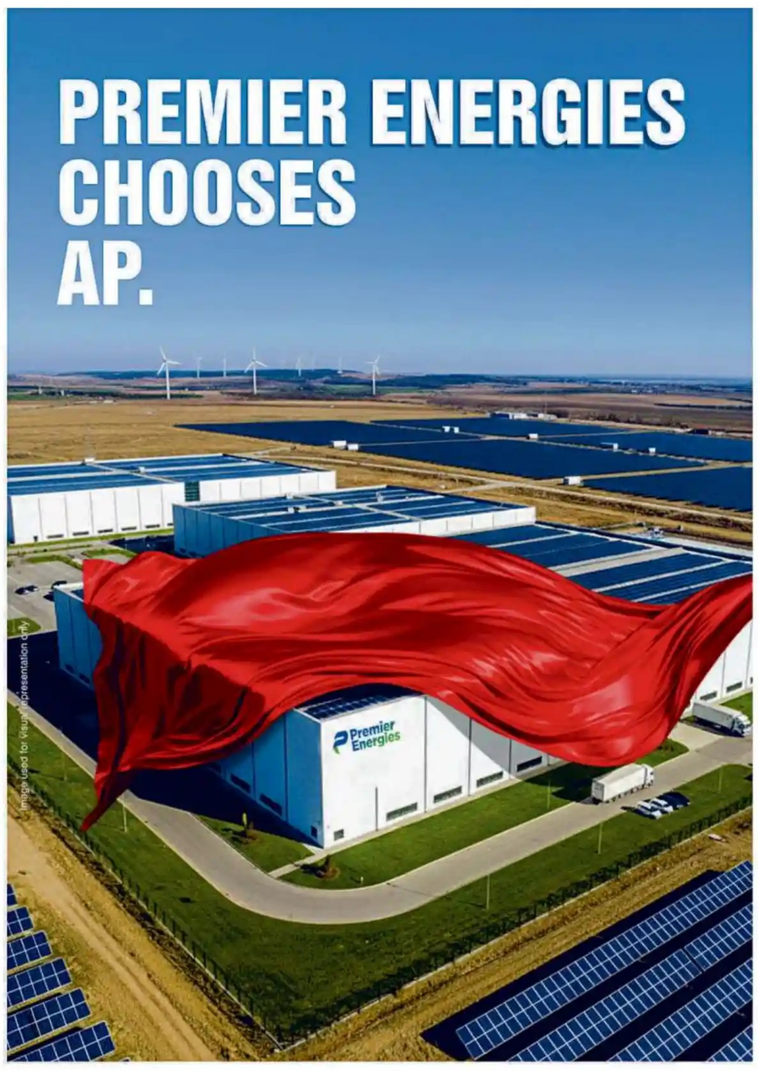
DMK, allies to move SC against SIR in TN

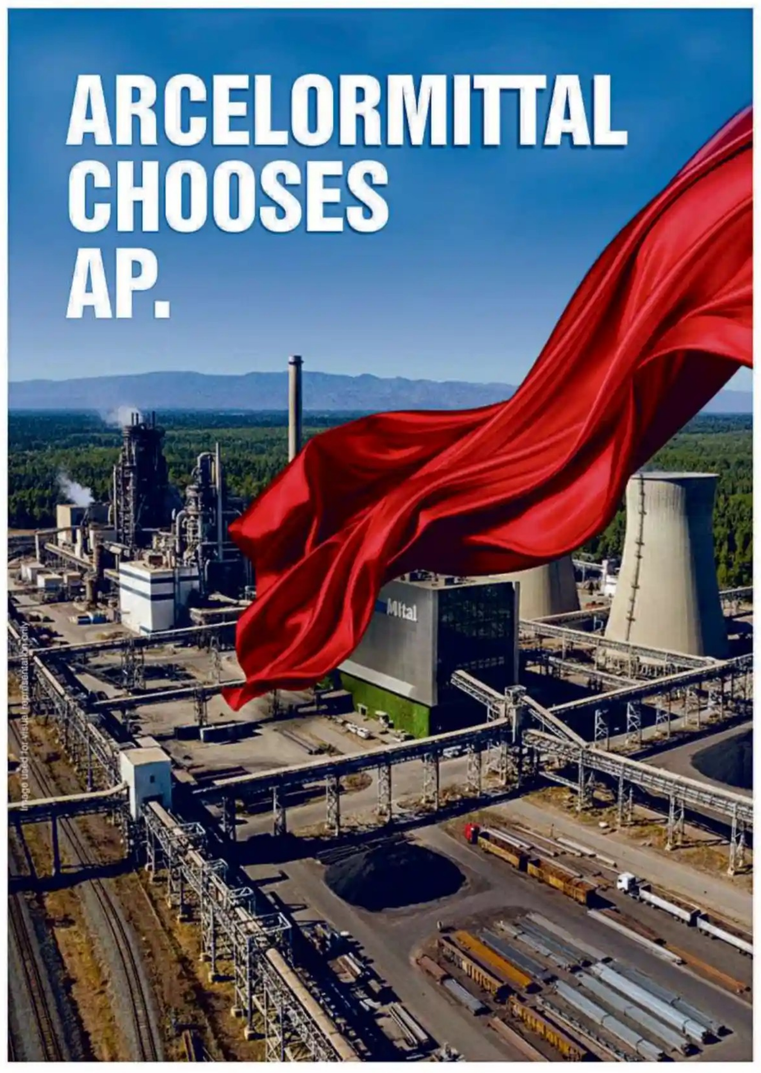
Want exercise to be held after the Assembly polls next year

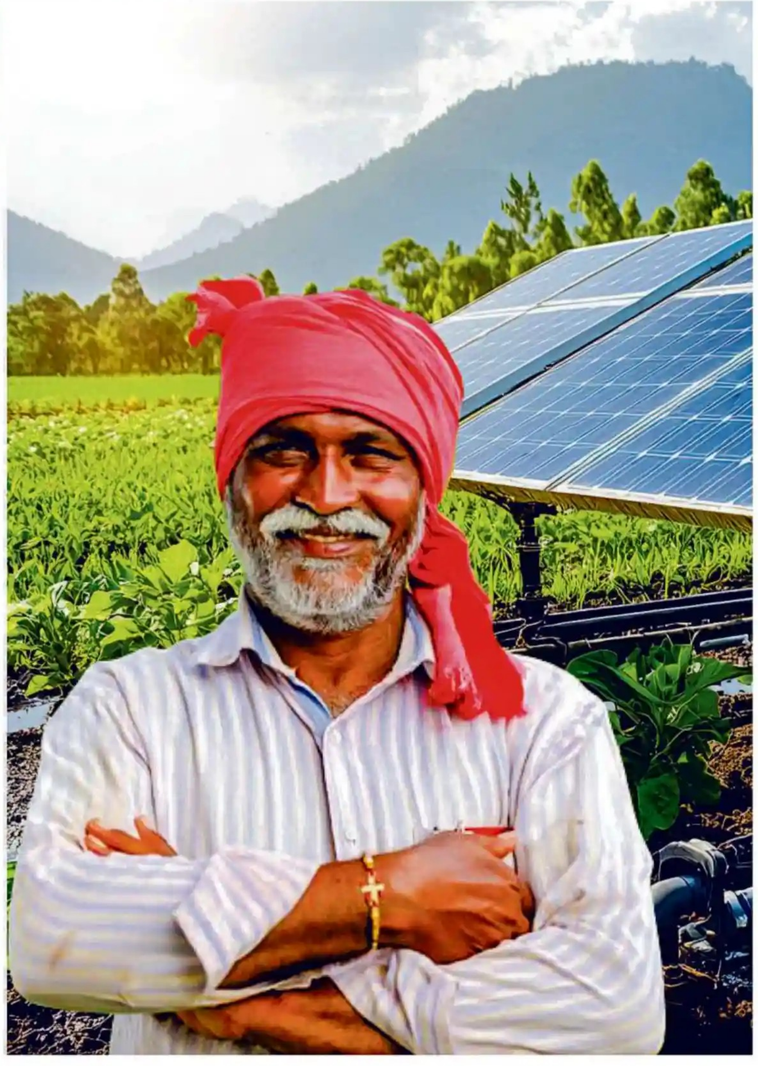
GST revenue collection to exceed budget target despite rate cuts: SBI

Business *Page 8*









Companies driven by speed
Choose AP.

CII

30th CII Partnership Summit
14-15th November, 2025
Visakhapatnam

Scan for More Details

Issued by : Director, Information & Public Relations Dept., Andhra Pradesh.

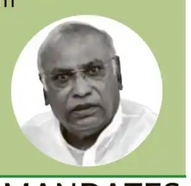
COUNTER

"If Lalu's son (Tejashwi) becomes Bihar chief minister, three more new portfolios will be created to oversee kidnapping, extortion and murder...Your votes for the NDA will save Bihar from RJD's 'jungle raj'. Efforts are underway to bring back 'jungle raj' with new faces

Amit Shah
Union Home Minister

V/S

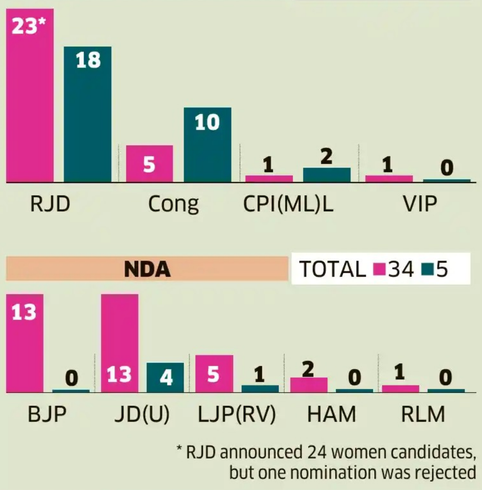
Wherever the people of Bihar go, they brighten the fortunes of their cities with their hard work and talent. But why haven't they been able to change the fate of their own Bihar yet? It is because the BJP-JDU has snatched every opportunity and every dream from the youth of Bihar in the last 20 years. They have been forced to become labourers"



Mallikarjun Kharge
Congress president

WOMEN, MUSLIMS & MANDATES

■ Women candidates ■ Muslim candidates



* RJD announced 24 women candidates, but one nomination was rejected

Poll diary

Foreign diplomats to observe BJP poll campaign

A delegation of foreign diplomats from embassies of several countries, including Japan and the UK, began a two-day visit to Bihar on Sunday to observe the BJP's election campaign and India's democratic process. "The visit under the 'Know BJP' initiative, launched by party president J P Nadda, is to familiarise the diplomats with the functioning, outreach and organisational strength of the BJP," said the BJP's foreign affairs department in-charge.

Mizoram bypoll: Code violation plaint against CM

Complaints against Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma and his adviser and MLA Dr Lorrain Lalpekliana Chinzah for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during the Dampa Assembly bypoll will be forwarded to the EC, an official said on Sunday. The opposition Mizo National Front has complained with the CEO that Lalduhoma and Chinzah recently promised several projects and distributed free medicine, respectively, violating the MCC.

Trinamool accuses BJP of 'hidden NRC' in Bengal

The Trinamool Congress on Sunday cited Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks to renew its charge that the SIR of electoral rolls in West Bengal was a cover for a secret NRC-like exercise. Referring to Shah's statement in Patna that "India is not a dharmshala" and that illegal migrants would be deported, the TMC said the BJP's "endgame" was to "divide, disenfranchise and delegitimise millions" in Bengal.

CONSTITUENCY WATCH

PHULWARI (PATNA DISTRICT)

GOPAL RAVIDAS
CPI(ML) Liberation
2020: Won

SHYAM RAJAK
JD(U)
2020: Did not contest

Nitish's image shines through despite slush

In north Bihar, JD(U) leader's reputation and welfare legacy shape electoral mood in towns battling civic chaos

FROM THE GROUND

ASHISH PANDEY
MUZAFFARPUR/MOTIHARI/ BETTIAH, DHNS

As the campaign trail winds through north Bihar, mostly of which goes to the polls in the second phase on November 11, one theme resonates across towns: people are broadly satisfied with the welfare schemes and governance stability under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, despite poor infrastructure and urban mess.

From elderly pensioners to women beneficiaries of welfare schemes, there is a strong sense of having received tangible support from the state government.

While cities and towns continue to grapple with problems like garbage dumping, poor drainage and waterlogging during rains, conversations across Motihari, Bettiah, Muzaffarpur, Gopalganj and Siwan repeatedly invoke Nitish's 'clean image' and 'focus on governance' as defining factors in this election.

The NDA is not only battling the I.N.D.I.A bloc, it's also fighting anti-incumbency and voter fatigue after nearly two decades of Nitish's rule. The 'jungle raj' rhetoric has become a potent counter-narrative, and the NDA is raising slogans like 'Sushasan vs Jungle Raj' during voter outreach, says Bettiah MP Sanjay Jaiswal.

Amid strong endorsements of governance and welfare under Nitish, despite his flip-flops, another contrasting sentiment is clearly visible: frustration with urban neglect. Cities like Muzaffarpur, Motihari, Bettiah, Gopalganj and Siwan are grappling with an acute civic crisis.

When *DH* visited these towns, a light but persistent drizzle had lingered for three to four days. The rain impacted campaigning. Choppers carrying political heavyweights couldn't take off due to poor weather, and road travel slowed as streets turned slushy and gullies overflowed with stagnant water.

This lack of basic urban infrastructure in the most buzzing places of the towns, many believe, reflects the gap between policy and implementation. "Nitish has given us good schemes, but the cities need urgent attention," says Richa Kumari, a college student in Gopalganj. "What's the use of welfare if we can't walk to college without dirtying our shoes, or sometimes falling?"

Muzaffarpur, Motihari, Bettiah, Gopalganj and Siwan struggle with severe civic neglect. DH PHOTO

SUSHASAN VERSUS URBAN MESS

- NDA banks on Nitish's image to counter anti-incumbency
- BJP uses Jungle Raj narratives to energise young voters
- RJD struggles to shift focus to jobs and migration
- Voters unsure of Tejashwi's leadership credibility

In Motihari, local resident Naina Devi told *DH* that Mayor Preeti Gupta has done little to address garbage and drainage issues, forcing residents to clean up themselves. Her husband, Dewa Gupta, is the RJD candidate from the seat. Despite the urban mess, this may end up benefiting the NDA. At Mohaniya Chowk, lawyer Raza Khan pointed to overflowing garbage in the city's main market and near the Collectorate.

When *DH* spoke to senior BJP leader and four-time MP from West Champaran, Sanjay Jaiswal, he said, "Any civilisation that forgets its past will be finished. We will remind the youth of Jungle Raj and what it symbolises." He added that it is the party's duty to make young voters aware of the lawlessness that "prevailed in Bihar two decades ago".

An RJD worker in Motihari, speaking on condition of anonymity, admitted that even he finds it difficult to counter the charge. While he dismissed the allegations as baseless, he said that many voters seem to have made up their minds.

According to him, the RJD's best bet is to focus on issues like job creation and curbing migration, which Tejashwi Yadav has been highlighting in his rallies.

In the same city, a shopkeeper said, "With Nitish, there is a sense of discipline... Even if roads are bad or garbage piles up, people trust that he won't let things slip beyond a point."

Tejashwi, meanwhile, continues to face scepticism. His name doesn't seem to inspire much confidence among voters at this moment.

'Maha Jungle Raj': Modi, Tejashwi face off

PM mocks manifesto, RJD leader counters with crime stats

Narendra Modi

Tejashwi Yadav

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday sought to drive a wedge between the RJD and the Congress, alleging that Tejashwi Yadav had forced the Congress to declare him the Mahagathbandhan's chief ministerial candidate.

Addressing a rally in Ara in Bhojpur district, Modi said the Congress had been consistently sidelined by the RJD.

"Their manifesto is titled Tejashwi ke pran (Tejashwi's promises), as if the Congress has no role in it. Just as he forced them at gunpoint to name him the CM face, he didn't even consult them while releasing the manifesto. After the election, they will be at each other's throats. What else can you expect from those who symbolise Jungle Raj, under whose regime 35,000 kidnappings took place?"

Modi also predicted a crushing defeat for the Mahagathbandhan, which has promised the moon through its manifesto.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav then stepped in with a point-by-point rebuttal.

"Two days ago, a father and son were killed in Ara, the same place where Modi ji held his rally today. In another case, JD(U)'s Mokama candidate Anant Singh has been arrested on murder charges, allegedly linked to the killing of Jan Suraaj supporter Dularchand Yadav. Do these incidents not reflect the 'Maha Jungle Raj' currently prevailing in Bihar?" said Tejashwi on Sunday.

BIHAR VOTES

The Mahagathbandhan's CM face also hit back at Modi's criticism of his job promise. "Modi mocks my pledge to provide government jobs to every family in Bihar, but he himself failed to deliver on the '2 crore jobs per year' promise and couldn't even reopen the sugar mills he vowed to revive back in 2014."

Assuring a crackdown on lawlessness, Tejashwi said, "If we are voted to power, all hardened criminals will be behind bars by January 26, 2026."

VERBAL CROSSFIRE

- Modi accuses Tejashwi of sidelining Congress
- Calls him "gunpoint CM face" of Mahagathbandhan
- PM predicts a crushing defeat for Oppn alliance
- Tejashwi slams Modi's unfulfilled promise of 2 crore jobs

SPLASH POLITICS

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during an interaction with fishermen, in Begusarai. Vikassheel Insaan Party chief Mukesh Sahni and AICC in-charge of NSUI Kanhaiya Kumar are also seen. PTI

Rahul jumps into muddy pond, interacts with fishermen

BEGUSARAI/KHAGARIA, PTI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday jumped into a muddy pond in Bihar and interacted with fishermen present at the spot, whom he told that they always had his support.

He went to a nearby pond along with former state minister Mukesh Sahni, whose Vikassheel Insan Party is a junior partner in the I.N.D.I.A bloc.

The leaders took a boat to reach the middle of a pond, where Sahni, who had stripped down to his vest and underpants, cast a net, impressing Gandhi with his prowess.

Many fishermen were also present at the spot, some of whom dived to join the leaders in chest-deep waters.

I.N.D.I.A bloc allies turn rivals in 12 seats

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

They have an official chief-ministerial face, decided on a deputy CM candidate without much squabble, and came out with a joint manifesto ahead of the rival coalition, but I.N.D.I.A-bloc parties have refused to budge on fighting against each other in 12 constituencies in Bihar.

The Congress, RJD, CPI, Vikassheel Insan Party (VIP), and the India Inclusive Party (IIP) are fighting against each other, including in one seat where the RJD candidate refused to withdraw despite the party giving it in writing, because a settlement remained elusive despite rounds of negotiations.

The RJD is fighting the Congress in five seats: Sikandra, Kahalgaon, Sultanganj, Vaishali, and Narkatiaganj. The CPI is fighting the Congress in four: Raja Pakar, Kargahar, Bihar Sharif, and Bachhwara.

The RJD and the VIP have locked horns in Chainpur and Gaura Bauram, where the RJD candidate refused to withdraw. The Congress and the IIP are locked in a contest in Beldaur.

Interestingly, senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra launched her campaign on Saturday with a rally in Bachhwara, while an announced rally in Beldaur did not take place. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is likely to launch his campaign from Raja Pakar — a reserved seat — next Monday.

The Congress contested the five seats, where it is pitted against the RJD, in the 2020 elections and came second.

Kahalgaon is the only seat among these five that will see a different NDA party fighting this time. The JD(U), which is fielding the Congress candidate who came a distant second five years ago, will contest it this time. The BJP won the seat last time, but recently expelled the sitting MLA for anti-party activities.

The CPI has fielded candidates in two seats — Rajapakar and Kargahar — where the Congress won the last time, while the latter has fielded a candidate in Bachhwara, where the Left party lost to the BJP by just 484 votes due to Congress rebel Shiv Prakash Garib Das bagging 39,878 votes. He is the Congress' official candidate this time.

Both the Congress and the CPI are contesting Bihar Sharif, which the RJD vacated. The Congress fielding a candidate in Bachhwara, seemed to have irked the CPI, prompting it to fight its ally in three other seats.

The VIP and the RJD have horns in Chainpur, with both sides looking to capitalise on the Bind-community voters. The parties are also in Gaura Bauram, where the VIP had defeated the RJD by 7,280 votes last time.

The IIP — a new entrant in the I.N.D.I.A bloc — is also in a contest against the Congress in Beldaur, which the latter lost by 5,108 votes in 2020. The IIP is contesting two other seats in alliance.

BEYOND HYDERABAD

'Completely wrong': Owaisi rejects vote split charges

Hyderabad MP **Asaduddin Owaisi**'s party has put up 24 candidates in Bihar. In the last elections, the AIMIM won five seats and damaged the prospects of the Congress and RJD in several other seats. **Sumit Pande** caught up with Owaisi and asked whether its entry in Bihar helps the BJP at the cost of the I.N.D.I.A alliance. Owaisi also told *DH* about his plans for the next Assembly polls in Karnataka.

How has the journey been since you first contested in Bihar in 2015?
This is our third election. This area has been very beneficial and the people have blessed us. We won a by-election from Kishangunj in 2019 and then five seats in 2020. In the last LS polls, we got over two lakh votes.

One question everyone asks is: why would a party based in Hyderabad come here to contest?
This is one of the most backward regions in the country. Many delegations from here have visited Hyderabad, and we have a huge migrant population from Bihar in the city. They were quite fed up with the RJD and Nitish Kumar, but didn't have any option. So, we thought we must go there and see what we could do. Over the last 20 years, it's been like a musical chair — Nitish as the CM, RJD joins in, then exits, BJP comes in. In politics, people should have options.

It is alleged that your entry into these areas is primarily to damage the I.N.D.I.A bloc and indirectly help the BJP.
The allegation is completely wrong. In 2020, we won five seats. Of the remaining 14 that we contested, nine seats were won by the Gathbandhan.

It was a very close election, with a difference of only 12,000 votes between the two alliances.
You must have competition in politics. Why do parties wrongly assume they can hijack voters or their thinking power? We are here to break the status quo. Yes, the political equilibrium must be disturbed so that democracy is strengthened. Why did the BJP win so many Lok Sabha seats despite us contesting only Kishanganj in 2019 and 2024?

Asaduddin Owaisi

"The so-called secular parties are happy to have Yadav, forward caste and EBC leadership, but they do not want one comprising the largest caste in Bihar, that is, 18% Muslims. If a Mallah's son can become deputy CM, why can't Mohammad's son? Are we here only to lay mats and carpets?

One of the arguments is that even if you contest less number of seats, your presence creates counter-polarisation in the contiguous areas, which tends to help the BJP.
That in itself shows they are unwilling to correct their mistakes. It also shows that they don't want to be challenged. Let's assume, for a moment, that what they are saying is right. This election, our state president wrote to all parties within the I.N.D.I.A alliance in Bihar, expressing our willingness to work with them. He wrote to Tejashwi Yadav, asking for six seats. They don't accept that.

And lastly, why did they take my four MLAs? When the BJP did the same thing in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, they said democracy is being murdered. But if you do the same, is it suddenly a Gandhian form of politics?

The so-called secular parties are happy to have Yadav, forward caste and EBC leadership, but they do not want one comprising the largest caste in Bihar, that is, 18% Muslims. If a Mallah's son can become deputy CM, why can't Mohammad's son? Are we here only to lay mats and carpets?

Will you be contesting the next Karnataka Assembly polls?
We contested only three seats last time. Our people are working hard in some places in Karnataka — not in Bengaluru city, but in other places — and the organisation is getting strengthened. So yes, why not? We will look into it when the time comes.

DMK, alliance partners to move top court against SIR in TN

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Intensifying their opposition to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu, the DMK, its alliance partners, and a host of political parties on Sunday decided to file a petition against the exercise before the Supreme Court.

The parties, which include Congress and the Left, demanded that the Election Commission of India (ECI) abandon the SIR scheduled to be conducted between November 4 and December 4, and hold it impartially after the assembly polls next year.

The decision to approach the SC was taken at a multi-party meeting convened by DMK President and Chief Minister M K Stalin, attended by representatives from 46 political parties. However, actor Vijay's TVK, PMK, AMMK, and a few other parties that are not part of the AIADMK-BJP alliance boycotted the meeting.

A resolution passed at the meeting accused the EC of acting as a "tool of the ruling party at the Centre" and said the enumeration period, which coincides with the northeast monsoon, raises legitimate fears of many voters being removed from the list.

The meeting also said many fear losing their voting rights due to difficulties in participating since the Christmas and Pongal festivals fall before the release of the final electoral list on January 31.

"As the EC does not accept these views, Tamil Nadu's political parties have no option but to approach the SC to protect the voting rights of all Tamil Nadu voters," the resolution added.

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DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Bihar polls: JD(U) candidate arrested for murder

Why buy a new car before wedding? DKS to Tejasvi Surya

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(Please scan the QR code to view the RHP)

lenskart | LENSKART SOLUTIONS LIMITED

Our Company was originally incorporated as '*Valyoo Technologies Private Limited*', as a private limited company under the Companies Act, 1956, pursuant to a certificate of incorporation dated May 19, 2008, issued by the Registrar of Companies, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Haryana at New Delhi. Thereafter, the name of our Company was changed to '*Lenskart Solutions Private Limited*' pursuant to a fresh certificate of incorporation dated May 19, 2015, issued by the Registrar of Companies, Delhi and Haryana, at New Delhi (the "**RoC**"). Subsequently, our Company was converted to a public limited company and the name of our Company changed to 'Lenskart Solutions Limited' pursuant to a resolution passed by our Board on May 21, 2025, and resolution passed by our Shareholders on May 30, 2025, and a fresh certificate of incorporation dated June 16, 2025, was issued by the RoC. For details in relation to the changes in registered office address of our Company, see "***History and Certain Corporate Matters - Changes in the registered office of our Company***" on page 344 of the Red Herring Prospectus dated October 25, 2025 filed with the RoC (the **"Red Herring Prospectus" or "RHP"**) to read with Addendum cum Corrigendum dated October 28, 2025 ("**Addendum cum Corrigendum**").

Registered Office: Plot No. 151, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase III, New Delhi – 110 020, Delhi, India; **Corporate Office:** Ground Floor Vipul Tech Square, Golf Course Road Sector 43, DLF QE, Gurugram – 122 009, Haryana, India; **Corporate Identity Number:** U33100DL2008PLC178355

Contact Person: Preeti Gupta, Company Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer; **Tel.:** +91 124 429 3191; **E-mail:** compliance.officer@lenskart.com; **Website:** https://www.lenskart.com

PROMOTERS OF OUR COMPANY: PEYUSH BANSAL, NEHA BANSAL, AMIT CHAUDHARY AND SUMEET KAPAHI

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹2 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF LENSKART SOLUTIONS LIMITED (OUR "COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹[●] PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹2 EACH (INCLUDING A SHARE PREMIUM OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE) ("OFFER PRICE"), AGGREGATING UP TO ₹[●] MILLION COMPRISING A FRESH ISSUE OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹2 EACH, AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 21,500.00 MILLION BY OUR COMPANY ("FRESH ISSUE") AND AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO 127,562,573 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹2 EACH, AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [●] MILLION ("OFFERED SHARES") BY CERTAIN SHAREHOLDERS ("(SELLING SHAREHOLDERS") (SUCH SALE, THE "OFFER FOR SALE", AND TOGETHER WITH THE FRESH ISSUE, THE "OFFER"). FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SELLING SHAREHOLDERS, SEE "THE OFFER" ON PAGE 114 OF THE RHP.
THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹2 EACH, AGGREGATING UP TO ₹150.00 MILLION (CONSTITUTING UP TO [●]% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL, FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES ("EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION"). THE OFFER LESS THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION IS HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "NET OFFER". THE OFFER AND THE NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE [●]% AND [●]% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY, RESPECTIVELY. THE FACE VALUE OF EQUITY SHARES IS ₹2 EACH. THE OFFER PRICE IS [●] TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES.

DETAILS OF THE OFFER FOR SALE OF THE TOP 10 SELLING SHAREHOLDERS AND THEIR WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION

NAME OF THE SELLING SHAREHOLDER**	TYPE	NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES OFFERED / AMOUNT (IN ₹ MILLION)	WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION PER EQUITY SHARE (IN ₹)*
Peyush Bansal	Promoter Selling Shareholder	Up to 20,488,978 Equity Shares of face value of ₹2 each aggregating up to ₹[●] million	18.60
Neha Bansal	Promoter Selling Shareholder	Up to 1,010,546 Equity Shares of face value of ₹2 each aggregating up to ₹[●] million	7.60
Amit Chaudhary	Promoter Selling Shareholder	Up to 2,868,457 Equity Shares of face value of ₹2 each aggregating up to ₹[●] million	8.16
Sumeet Kapahi	Promoter Selling Shareholder	Up to 2,868,457 Equity Shares of face value of ₹2 each aggregating up to ₹[●] million	8.11
SVF II Lightbulb (Cayman) Limited	Investor Selling Shareholder	Up to 25,518,098 Equity Shares of face value of ₹2 each aggregating up to ₹[●] million	74.26

DETAILS OF THE OFFER FOR SALE OF THE TOP 10 SELLING SHAREHOLDERS AND THEIR WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION

NAME OF THE SELLING SHAREHOLDER**	TYPE	NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES OFFERED / AMOUNT (IN ₹ MILLION)	WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION PER EQUITY SHARE (IN ₹)*
Schroders Capital Private Equity Asia Mauritius Limited	Investor Selling Shareholder	Up to 19,064,344 Equity Shares of face value of ₹2 each aggregating up to ₹[●] million	40.90
PI Opportunities Fund - II	Investor Selling Shareholder	Up to 8,701,817 Equity Shares of face value of ₹2 each aggregating up to ₹[●] million	24.14
MacRitchie Investments Pte. Ltd.	Investor Selling Shareholder	Up to 7,858,841 Equity Shares of face value of ₹2 each aggregating up to ₹[●] million	97.75
Kedaara Capital Fund II LLP	Investor Selling Shareholder	Up to 7,360,340 Equity Shares of face value of ₹2 each aggregating up to ₹[●] million	74.99
Alpha Wave Ventures LP	Investor Selling Shareholder	Up to 6,664,179 Equity Shares of face value of ₹2 each aggregating up to ₹[●] million	105.92

**As certified by A D M S & Co, Chartered Accountants, (FRN: 014626C), by way of their certificate dated October 25, 2025.*

***For remaining Selling Shareholders and further details, see "**Summary of the Offer Document**" and "**The Offer**" beginning on pages 28 and 114 of the RHP, respectively.*

PRICE BAND: ₹382 TO ₹402 PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹2 EACH.

THE FLOOR PRICE IS 191 TIMES OF THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES AND THE CAP PRICE IS 201 TIMES OF THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES.

THE PRICE TO EARNINGS RATIO BASED ON DILUTED EPS FOR FISCAL 2025 AT THE UPPER END OF THE PRICE BAND IS 228.41 TIMES AND AT THE LOWER END OF THE PRICE BAND IS 217.05 TIMES AS COMPARED TO P/E RATIO OF NIFTY 50 AS OF OCTOBER 24, 2025 OF 22.67

WEIGHTED AVERAGE RETURN ON NET WORTH FOR FINANCIAL YEARS 2025, 2024 AND 2023 IS 2.11%.

BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 37 EQUITY SHARES AND IN MULTIPLES OF 37 EQUITY SHARES THEREAFTER.

BID/OFFER PERIOD | **BID/OFFER OPEN** | **BID/OFFER CLOSES ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025#**

#The UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5:00 p.m. on Bid/Offer Closing Date.

We are a technology-driven eyewear company with integrated operations spanning designing, manufacturing, branding and retailing of eyewear products. We primarily sell prescription eyeglasses, sunglasses, and other products such as contact lenses and eyewear accessories, under multiple brands and sub-brands.

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(2) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations.

The Equity Shares will get listed on the main board of NSE and BSE. NSE shall be the Designated Stock Exchange.

QIB Portion: Not less than 75% of the Net Offer | Non-Institutional Investor Portion: Not more than 15% of the Net Offer | Retail Portion: Not more than 10% of the Net Offer

Employee Reservation Portion: Up to [●] Equity Shares of face value of ₹2 each aggregating up to ₹150.00 million.

A discount of ₹19 per Equity Share is being offered to Eligible Employees bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion.

IN MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION, POTENTIAL INVESTORS MUST ONLY RELY ON THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE RED HERRING PROSPECTUS AND THE TERMS OF THE OFFER, INCLUDING THE RISKS INVOLVED AND NOT RELY ON ANY OTHER EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE OFFER AVAILABLE IN ANY MANNER. IN RELATION TO PRICE BAND, POTENTIAL INVESTORS SHOULD ONLY REFER TO THIS PRICE BAND ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE OFFER AND SHOULD NOT RELY ON ANY MEDIA ARTICLES / REPORTS IN RELATION TO THE VALUATION OF THE COMPANY AS THESE ARE NOT ENDORSED, PUBLISHED OR CONFIRMED EITHER BY THE COMPANY OR THE BRLMS.

In accordance with the recommendation of committee of Independent Directors of our Company, pursuant to the resolution dated October 25, 2025, the above provided price band is justified based on quantitative factors/KPIs disclosed in the *"Basis for Offer Price"* section on page 222 of the RHP vis-a-vis the weighted average cost of acquisition ("WACA") of primary and secondary transaction(s) as applicable, disclosed in the *"Basis for Offer Price"* on page 222 of the RHP and provided below in the advertisement.

RISK TO INVESTORS

For details, refer to the "Risk Factors" section on page 64 of the RHP.

1. **Concentration risk across production and logistics in Bhiwadi and Gurugram facilities:** We operate a hub-and-spoke model for manufacturing, where almost all single-vision, bifocal and progressive lenses (excluding lenses manufactured at our international facilities) are cut, edged, coated and matched to frames at our two manufacturing facilities located at Bhiwadi, Rajasthan and Gurugram, Haryana within the broader Gurugram industrial cluster across the states of Haryana and Rajasthan, following which finished eyeglasses are dispatched to our stores and e-commerce fulfilment centres across India and to overseas jurisdictions. Our reliance on manufacturing facilities located in the Gurugram industrial cluster across the states of Haryana and Rajasthan (which are our Bhiwadi and Gurugram facilities) exposes us to concentration risks across production and logistics. Set out below are the details:

Location of manufacturing facility	For the three months ended June 30,				For the Financial Year ended March 31,					
	2025		2024		2025		2024		2023	
	Actual production (in units)	(% of total production across owned manufacturing facilities)	Actual production (in units)	(% of total production across owned manufacturing facilities)	Actual production (in units)	(% of total production across owned manufacturing facilities)	Actual production (in units)	(% of total production across owned manufacturing facilities)	Actual production (in units)	(% of total production across owned manufacturing facilities)
Gurugram, Haryana	1,248,488	31.75%	1,174,022	40.23%	5,209,089	39.59%	5,661,085	56.14%	6,655,311	92.84%
Bhiwadi, Rajasthan	2,621,726	66.67%	1,707,909	58.52%	7,748,642	58.90%	4,306,995	42.71%	437,876	6.11%
Others*	62,079	1.58%	36,497	1.25%	198,845	1.51%	116,156	1.15%	75,158	1.05%
Total	**3,932,293**	**100.00%**	**2,918,428**	**100.00%**	**13,156,576**	**100.00%**	**10,084,236**	**100.00%**	**7,168,345**	**100.00%**

**Others comprises our Singapore and Dubai manufacturing facilities.*

2. **Risks related to sourcing of raw materials and manufacturing operations in the People's Republic of China:** We source some of our raw materials and frames from the People's Republic of China (the "PRC"), where we also operate a manufacturing facility through Baofeng Framekart Technology Limited, our Joint Venture. The table below sets out details of our direct imports from the PRC:

Particulars	For the three months ended June 30,				For the Financial Year ended March 31,					
	2025		2024		2025		2024		2023	
	(₹ in million)	% of total purchases	(₹ in million)	% of total purchases	(₹ in million)	% of total purchases	(₹ in million)	% of total purchases	(₹ in million)	% of total purchases
Direct imports from the PRC	3,547.49	53.38%	1,746.30	40.93%	10,624.33	42.21%	7,699.71	41.09%	8,682.22	54.15%
Direct purchases from other countries (including India)	3,098.83	46.62%	2,519.91	59.07%	14,543.52	57.79%	11,039.58	58.91%	7,350.39	45.85%

We are exposed to risks related to our imports and manufacturing operations in the PRC, which could adversely affect our reputation, brand perception, customer loyalty, and business.

3. **Our Company has incurred losses in the past. The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(2) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations.**

4. **Capacity utilization related risk:** An inability to maintain or improve our capacity utilization levels at our manufacturing facilities could have an adverse effect on our business. The following table sets forth our capacity utilization:

Capacity utilization	For the three months ended June 30,		For the Financial Year ended March 31,		
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2023
Installed Capacity (in units)(1)	7,137,000	6,580,000	27,451,000	21,966,000	15,198,000
Actual Production (in units)	3,932,293	2,918,428	13,156,576	10,084,236	7,168,345
Capacity Utilization (in %)(2)	55.10%	44.35%	47.93%	45.91%	47.17%

Notes:

(1) Annual Installed Capacity: The annual installed capacity of a manufacturing plant is the maximum amount of production that a company can achieve in a year, assuming that all machines are running at full speed, 365 days a year. It is determined after taking into account the product mix and cycle time and can be produced in the specific production line. The installed capacity for each Fiscal Year is adjusted on account of the addition of capacity during the year. The capacity utilization for the three months ended June 30, 2025 and June 30, 2024 is calculated by considering effective capacity as one-fourth of annual capacity.

(2) Capacity Utilization: Capacity utilization has been calculated based on actual production made during the relevant fiscal year/ period, divided by the annual installed capacity of relevant manufacturing facilities as of the end of the relevant fiscal year/ period.

5. **Requests for information from the Enforcement Directorate:** The Directorate of Enforcement, Gurugram (the "**ED**"), has initiated an inquiry into procedural delays in our filings on the IDPMS and EPDMS portals by a show cause notice dated July 25, 2022 to our Company, under section 37 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 ("**FEMA**"). Furthermore, our Company requires a no-objection certificate ("**NOC**") from the ED to undertake any overseas direct investment ("ODI"). Our Company is actively pursuing the necessary legal steps and has submitted several applications requesting the ED to issue an NOC in our favour. The ED, through its order dated November 18, 2023 directed our Company to provide further information and documents. Further, via the said order dated November 18, 2023, the ED directed the Company to provide further information/documents, to which our Company has responded vide letter dated January 9, 2024. Further, our Company received an e-mail correspondence from the ED dated May 7, 2025, to which our Company has furnished the requisite documents to the ED on May 13, 2025.

6. **Supply of raw materials risk:** We source raw materials such as blank and powered lenses, certain types of frames, eyeglass cases, packaging materials and consumables from third-party suppliers for the manufacture of our eyewear products, along with raw materials for the manufacturing of frames, such as metal wires, acetate sheets and transparent resin granules. Set out below are details of our cost of raw materials consumed, total expenses and cost of raw materials consumed as a percentage of total expenses:

Particulars	For the three months ended June 30,		For the Financial Year ended March 31,		
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2023
	(₹ in million, unless otherwise stated)				
Cost of raw materials consumed (A)	4,673.39	3,639.94	16,229.74	14,092.21	10,618.14
Total expenses (B)	18,365.80	15,606.22	66,194.78	55,495.94	40,250.74
Cost of raw materials consumed as % of total expenses (%) (A)/(B)	25.45%	23.32%	24.52%	25.39%	26.38%

Any delays, interruptions or reduction in the supply of raw materials to manufacture our prescription eyeglasses or fluctuations in the prices of our raw materials could adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

7. **Risks associated to greenfield manufacturing facility in Hyderabad, Telangana:** We have entered into a non-binding memorandum of understanding dated December 8, 2024 ("**MOU**") with the Government of Telangana ("**GoT**") for setting up a greenfield manufacturing facility for optical glasses with an investment of ₹15,000 million by us, and certain incentives and support from the GoT. These incentives include subsidies and reimbursements subject to certain conditions and limitations. The MOU is also non-binding in nature and may be amended by mutual agreement between parties. We cannot assure you that we will be able to avail of the full benefits of the incentives as envisaged.

8. **Eyewear industry in India is largely unorganized:** The eyewear industry in India is largely unorganized, which exposes us to competition from a fragmented base of smaller retailers and may affect our business. According to the Redseer Report, approximately 77% of prescription eyewear sales in India by value are catered to by the unorganized sector, with organized players accounting for the balance ~23% as of Financial Year 2025. The unorganized sector comprises numerous small, independent retailers with lower cost structures and flexible pricing, which may limit the ability of organized players to increase prices, gain market share, or deliver standardized customer experiences.

9. **Stores related risk:** The location, size and performance of our retail store network component of our omnichannel retail network are critical to our success. Our retail store network is a key driver of our revenue growth, customer acquisition, and customer loyalty. Our ability to open and operate new stores depends on several factors, including the availability of suitable locations, acceptable rental costs, regulatory approvals, competitive dynamics, customer preferences, and overall economic conditions.

Set out below are details of our new store openings and store closures:

Particulars	For the three months ended June 30,		For the Financial Year ended March 31,		
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2023
Number of stores at the start of the Financial Year / period	2,723	2,389	2,389	1,959	1,508
Number of new stores opened	100	70	445*	489*	518*
Number of store closures***	17	24	111	59	67
Number of stores at the end of the Financial Year / period**	2,806	2,435	2,723	2,389	1,959

**Number of new stores opened includes stores acquired in the Financial Year 2023 pursuant to our acquisition of Owndays.*

***Number of stores as of March 31, 2024 and 2023 is set out on a pro forma basis to illustrate the effect of the Dealskart Acquisition.*

****Store closures were primarily due to (i) the closure of certain malls and commercial establishments by government authorities on account of several reasons, e.g. to facilitate nearby infrastructure development, such as flyover construction; (ii) closures initiated by franchisee partners, with certain stores subsequently converted into COCO stores; and (iii) relocation of stores due to strategic reasons.*

We offer our eyewear products through our online channel and through our retail store networks across 14 countries, which as of June 30, 2025. Set out below is a breakdown of our global store network by country or region, as of the dates indicated:

Particulars	As of June 30,		As of March 31,		
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2023
India (A)	2,137	1,816	2,067	1,785	1,416
comprising					
Metro cities(1)	928	809	900	791	656
Tier-1 cities (2)	491	395	469	385	277
Tier-2 towns and cities and beyond (3)	718	612	698	609	483
Japan (B)	272	263	267	259	232
Southeast Asia* (C)	258	231	251	229	214
Middle East** (D)	39	32	39	28	17
Others*** (E)	100	93	99	88	80
Total (A+B+C+D+E)	**2,806**	**2,435**	**2,723**	**2,389**	**1,959**

(1) Includes Delhi/NCR (includes New Delhi, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Noida, and Faridabad), Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Pune, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

(2) Includes Lucknow, Raipur, Patna, Jaipur, Ranchi, Surat, Jammu, Madurai, Chandigarh, Rajkot, Nagpur, Hubli, Coimbatore, Bhubaneswar, Mangalore, Jodhpur, Gwalior, Tiruchirappalli, Indore, Visakhapatnam, Dehradun, Aurangabad, Rajahmundry, Nashik, Vadodara, Belgaum, Udaipur, Gorakhpur, Agra, Vijayawada, Jabalpur, Siliguri, Kolhapur, Bhopal, Goa, Varanasi, Bareilly, Dhanbad, Gaya

(3) Includes cities other than metro cities and Tier 1 cities

**Southeast Asia comprises Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Cambodia.*

***The Middle East comprises the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.*

****Others comprise Taiwan, Hong Kong and Australia.*

Our global operations expose us to management, legal, tax, political, economic and foreign exchange risks.

10. **FOFO and COFO stores related risk:** We do not exercise complete operational or financial control over our franchisee-operated retail stores. As a result, franchisees may take actions that are inconsistent with our brand standards, operational policies, or strategic objectives. Our franchise arrangements are through a combination of franchise-owned and franchise-operated ("**FoFo**"), and company-owned and franchise-operated ("**CoFo**") stores. The table below sets out our retail store network by franchisee and CoFo stores (in India and in international markets), as of the dates indicated:

Particulars	For the three months ended June 30,				As of March 31,					
	2025		2024		2025		2024		2023	
	Number of retail stores	% of total retail stores	Number of retail stores	% of total retail stores	Number of retail stores	% of total retail stores	Num- ber of retail stores	% of total retail stores	Num- ber of retail stores	% of total retail stores
Franchise stores – India										
- FoFo	306	14.32%	347	19.11%	310	11.38%	359	15.03%	369	18.81%
- CoFo	8	0.37%	8	0.44%	8	0.29%	9	0.38%	11	0.56%
Franchise stores – International										
- FoFo	158	7.39%	151	8.31%	158	5.80%	152	6.36%	143	7.30%
Total franchise stores	**472**	**22.09%**	**506**	**27.86%**	**476**	**17.47%**	**520**	**21.77%**	**523**	**26.67%**

11. **Price/Earning (P/E) ratio based on diluted EPS for Financial Year 2025 is 217.05 and 228.41 times at the lower and upper end of the Price Band.**

12. **Weighted Average Return on Net Worth for Financial Year ended 2025, 2024 and 2023 is 2.11% and return on net worth for the three months period ended June 30, 2025 is 0.97% (not annualised).**

13. **Average cost of acquisition of Equity Shares for our Promoters (also the Promoter Selling Shareholders) and Selling Shareholders is as follows:**

Name	Number of Equity Shares held	Average cost of acquisition per Equity Share (in ₹)*
Promoters (also the Promoter Selling Shareholders)		
Peyush Bansal	173,222,220	18.60
Neha Bansal	125,783,623	7.60
Amit Chaudhary	16,585,630	8.16
Sumeet Kapahi	16,107,050	8.11
Investor Selling Shareholders		
Alpha Wave Ventures LP	66,184,529	105.92
Bay Capital Holdings Ltd	18,341,710	161.28
Birdseye View Holdings II Pte. Ltd.	37,071,443	163.64
Chiratae Trust	4,077,108	26.77
ECLK Innovations LLP	792,959	208.75
Epiq Capital B, L.P.	16,633,757	80.53

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Name	Number of Equity Shares held	Average cost of acquisition per Equity Share (in ₹)*
IDG Ventures India Fund III LLC	7,248,220	26.77
Kariba Holdings IV Mauritius	6,759,361	156.27
Kedaara Capital Fund II LLP	33,248,179	74.99
Kedaara Norfolk Holdings Limited	13,299,270	74.99
MacRitchie Investments Pte. Ltd.	81,893,360	97.75
Madison India Opportunities V VCC	9,894,996	200.81
PI Opportunities Fund – II	86,421,103	24.14
Schroders Capital Private Equity Asia Mauritius Limited	19,064,344	40.90
SVF II Lightbulb (Cayman) Limited	253,430,072	74.26
Technology Venture Fund	474,446	120.00
TR Capital II L.P	6,604,343	31.54
TR Capital III Mauritius	14,135,716	43.12
TR Capital III Mauritius II	16,652,160	43.12

As certified by A D M S & Co, Chartered Accountants, (FRN: 014626C), by way of certificate dated October 25, 2025.

14. **Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition for all Equity Shares transacted in 1 year, 18 months and 3 years immediately preceding the RHP is as follows:**

Period	Weighted average cost of acquisition per Equity Share (in ₹)*	Cap Price is 'X' times the weighted average cost of acquisition	Range of acquisition price: per Equity Share: lowest price – highest price (in ₹)*
Last one year	55.93	7.19	Nil** - 208.75
Last 18 months	37.54	10.71	Nil** - 208.75
Last three years	40.15	10.01	Nil** - 208.75

As certified by A D M S & Co, Chartered Accountants, (FRN: 014626C), by way of certificate dated October 25, 2025.
***Acquisition price of bonus shares have been considered as Nil.*

15. **The 6 BRLMs associated with the issue have handled 81 public issues in the past three years out of which 15 issues closed below the issue price on listing date.**

Name of the BRLM	Total Issues	Issues closed Issues below IPO Price on listing date
Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited*	10	4
Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited*	1	-
Avendus Capital Private Limited*	-	-
Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited*	3	1
Axis Capital Limited*	28	5
Intensive Fiscal Services Private Limited*	3	-
Common	36	5
Total	**81**	**15**

Issues handled where there were no common BRLMs

Additional Information for Investors

1. **No pre-IPO placement has been undertaken by our Company.**
2. **The Promoters or members of promoter group have not undertaken any transaction of shares aggregating up to 1% or more of the paid-up Equity Share capital of the Company from the DRHP filing date.**
3. **For further information refer to "Capital Structure" on page 132 of the RHP for the aggregate Equity Shareholding and percentage of the pre-Offer paid-up Equity Share capital and post-Offer Equity Shareholding, of our Promoter, members of our Promoter Group and additional top 10 Shareholders of our Company.**

BASIS FOR OFFER PRICE

The "Basis for Offer Price" section on page 222 of the RHP has been updated with the above price band. Please refer to the websites of the BRLMs: https://investmentbank.kotak.com, www.morganstanley.com/, www.avendus.com, https://www.citigroup.com/global/about-us/global-presence/india/disclaimer, www.axiscapital.co.in and www.intensivefiscal.com, respectively.

(You may scan the QR code for accessing the website of Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited)

An indicative timetable in respect of the Offer is set out below:

Event	Indicative Date
Bid/Offer Opens on	**Friday, October 31, 2025**
Bid/Offer Closes on	**Tuesday, November 4, 2025**
Finalization of Basis of Allotment with the Designated Stock Exchange	On or about Thursday, November 6, 2025
Initiation of refunds (if any, for Anchor Investors)/unblocking of funds from ASBA Account	On or about Friday, November 7, 2025
Credit of Equity Shares to demat accounts of Allottees	On or about Friday, November 7, 2025
Commencement of trading of the Equity Shares on the Stock Exchanges	On or about Monday, November 10, 2025

Submission of Bids (other than Bids from Anchor Investors):

Bid/Offer Period (except the Bid/Offer Closing Date)	
Submission and revision in Bids	Only between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. Indian Standard Time ("IST")
Bid/Offer Closing Date*	
Submission of electronic applications (online ASBA through 3-in-1 accounts) – For RIBs and Eligible Employees Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion other than QIBs and Non-Institutional Investors	Only between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. IST
Submission of electronic applications (Bank ASBA through online channels like internet banking, mobile banking and syndicate UPI ASBA applications where Bid Amount is up to ₹500,000)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. IST
Submission of electronic applications (syndicate non-retail, non-individual applications)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. IST
Submission of physical applications (Bank ASBA)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. IST
Submission of physical applications (Syndicate non-retail, non-individual applications where Bid Amount is more than ₹500,000)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 p.m. IST
Modification/ Revision/cancellation of Bids	
Upward revision of Bids by QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders categories#	Only between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. IST on Bid/ Offer Closing Date
Upward or downward revision of Bids or cancellation of Bids by RIBs and Eligible Employees Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion]	Only between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. IST

Our Company, in consultation with the BRLMs, may decide to close the Bid/ Offer Closing Period for QIBs one Working Day prior to the Bid/ Offer Closing Date, in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations.

**UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 05:00 p.m. on Bid/ Offer Closing Date i.e November 4, 2025.*

#QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders can neither revise their bids downwards nor cancel/withdraw their bids.

ASBA# Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!

#Applications Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") is a better way of applying to Issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA.

Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.

UPI UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

UPI - Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors and Non-Institutional Investor applying in public issues where the application amount is up to ₹500,000, applying through Registered Brokers, Syndicate, CDPs & RTAs. Retail Individual Investors and Non-Institutional Investors also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account. Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. Bidders must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021 read with press release dated September 17, 2021. CBDT circular no. 7 of 2022, dated March 30, 2022, read with press release dated March 28, 2023.

ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except Anchor Investors. UPI may be availed by (i) Retail Individual Investors in the Retail Portion; (ii) Non-Institutional Investors with an application size of up to ₹500,000 in the Non-Institutional Portion. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in the Bid Cum Application Form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "***Offer Procedure***" on page 552 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Bankers of India ("**AIBI**") and Stock Exchanges and in the General Information Document. The Bid Cum Application Form and the Abridged Prospectus can be downloaded from the websites of the Stock Exchanges and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=35 and https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes &intmId=43, respectively as updated from time to time. For the list of UPI apps and banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: www.sebi.gov.in. UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI Mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI, as updated from time to time. Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited and ICICI Bank Limited have been appointed as the Sponsor Bank for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of SEBI ICDR Master circular. For Offer related queries, please contact the BRLMs on their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll-free number: 18001201740 and mail Id: ipo.upi@npci.org.in.

THE EQUITY SHARES OF OUR COMPANY WILL GET LISTED ON MAIN BOARD PLATFORM OF NSE AND BSE.

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/ Offer Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days following such revision of the Price Band, subject to the total Bid/ Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar unforeseen circumstances, our Company, in consultation with the BRLMs, may for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/ Offer Period for a minimum of one Working Day, subject to the total Bid/ Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/ Offer Period, if applicable, will be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Members and by intimation to Self-Certified Syndicate Banks ("**SCSBs**"), other Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Bank(s), as applicable.

The Offer is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the SCRR, read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations. The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process, in compliance with Regulation 6(2) of SEBI ICDR Regulations, wherein not less than 75% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to QIBs (the "**QIB Portion**"), provided that our Company, in consultation with the BRLMs, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis, in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations (the "**Anchor Investor Portion**"), of which one-third shall be reserved for the domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from the domestic Mutual Funds at or above the price at which allocation is made to Anchor Investors ("**Anchor Investor Allocation Price**"). In the event of under-subscription, or non-allocation in the Anchor Investor Portion, the balance Equity Shares shall be added to the QIB Portion (other than Anchor Investor Portion) ("**Net QIB Portion**"). Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis only to Mutual Funds ("**Mutual Fund Portion**"), and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs, including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. However, if the aggregate demand from Mutual Funds is less than 5% of the Net QIB Portion, the balance Equity Shares available for allocation in the Mutual Fund Portion will be added to the remaining QIB Portion for proportionate allocation to QIBs. Further, not more than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Bidders, of which (a) one-third of such portion shall be reserved for Bidders with application size of more than ₹200,000 and up to ₹1,000,000; and (b) two-third of such portion shall be reserved for Bidders with application size of more than ₹1,000,000, provided that the unsubscribed portion in either of such sub-categories may be allocated to Bidders in the other sub-category of Non-Institutional Bidders and not more than 10% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to RIBs in accordance with SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, Equity Shares will be allocated on a proportionate basis to Eligible Employees applying under the Employee Reservation Portion, subject to valid Bids received from them at or above the Offer Price. All potential Bidders, other than Anchor Investors, are required to mandatorily utilise the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("**ASBA**") process by providing details of their respective bank account (including UPI ID (defined hereinafter) in case of UPI Bidders (defined hereinafter)) in which the corresponding Bid Amounts will be blocked by the SCSBs, or under the UPI Mechanism, as applicable to participate in the Offer. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Anchor Investor Portion through the ASBA process. For details, see "***Offer Procedure***" beginning on page 994 of the RHP.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through UPI Mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN , UPI ID and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID available (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI Mechanism) in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI mechanism) as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorized the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders/Applicants' sole risk. Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with the notification issued by Central Board of Direct Taxes notification dated February 13, 2020 and read with press releases dated June 25, 2021, September 17, 2021 and March 28, 2023 and any subsequent press releases in this regard.

Contents of the Memorandum of Association of our Company as regards its objects: For information on the main objects of our Company, investors are requested to see "***History and Certain Corporate Matters***" on page 344 of the RHP. The Memorandum of Association of our Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, see "***Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection***" on page 1044 of the RHP.

Liability of the members of our Company: Limited by shares.

Amount of Share Capital of our Company and Capital Structure: As on the date of the RHP, the authorized share capital of our Company is ₹4,580,000,000.00 comprising of 2,290,000,000 Equity Shares of face value ₹ 2 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of our Company is ₹3,362,748,564.00 comprising 1,681,374,282 Equity Shares of face value of ₹2 each. For details of the capital structure of our Company, see "***Capital Structure***" on page 132 of the RHP.

Names of the Initial Signatories to the Memorandum of Association of our Company and the number of Equity Shares subscribed by them: The names of the initial signatories of the Memorandum of Association of our Company along with their allotment are: Allotment of 5,000 equity shares each to Peyush Bansal and Neha Bansal. For details of the share capital history and capital structure of our Company see "***Capital Structure***" on page 132 of the RHP.

Listing: The Equity Shares offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. Our Company has received 'in-principle' approvals from BSE and NSE for the listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to letters, each dated September 5, 2025. For the purposes of the Offer, the Designated Stock Exchange shall be NSE. A copy of the Prospectus shall be filed with the RoC in accordance with Section 26(4) and Section 32 of the Companies Act, 2013. For details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of the Red Herring Prospectus up to the Bid/ Offer Closing Date, see "***Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection***' beginning on page 1044 of the RHP.

Disclaimer Clause of SEBI: SEBI only gives its observations on the draft offer document and this does not constitute approval of either the issue or the specified securities stated in the Offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 962 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of the SEBI.

Disclaimer clause of the NSE (Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to pages 964-965 of the RHP for the full text of disclaimer clause of NSE.

Disclaimer clause of the BSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by the BSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 964 of the RHP for the full text of disclaimer clause of BSE.

General Risks: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and Bidders should not invest any funds in the Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their investment. Bidders are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in the Offer. For taking an investment decision, Bidders must rely on their own examination of our Company and the Offer, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares in the Offer have neither been recommended, nor approved by the SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the Red Herring Prospectus. Specific attention of the Bidders is invited to "***Risk Factors***" beginning on page 64 of the RHP.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS

kotak® Investment Banking	Morgan Stanley	Avendus Next is the only level	citi	AXIS CAPITAL	Intensive
Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited 27 BKC, 1st Floor, Plot No. C – 27G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 4336 0000 **E-mail:** lenskart.ipo@kotak.com **Website:** https://investmentbank.kotak.com **Investor Grievance E-mail:** kmccredressal@kotak.com **Contact Person:** Ganesh Rane **SEBI Registration Number:** INM000008704	**Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited** Altimus, Level 39 & 40, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 6118 1000 **E-mail:** lenskartipo@morganstanley.com **Website:** www.morganstanley.com/ **Investor Grievance E-mail:** investors_india@morganstanley.com **Contact Person:** Naresh Tetarwal **SEBI Registration Number:** INM000011203	**Avendus Capital Private Limited** Platina Building, 9th Floor 901, Plot No C-59, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 6648 0050 **E-mail:** lenskart.ipo@avendus.com **Website:** www.avendus.com **Investor Grievance E-mail:** investorgrievance@avendus.com **Contact Person:** Sarthak Sawa/ Sneha Roy **SEBI Registration Number:** INM000011021	**Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited** 1202, 12th Floor First International Financial Center, G – Block Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 098, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 6175 9999 **E-mail:** lenskart.ipo@citi.com **Website:** https://www.citigroup.com/global/about-us/global-presence/india/disclaimer **Investor Grievance E-mail:** investors.cgmib@citi.com **Contact Person:** Anjali Kolathu Sureshkumar **SEBI Registration Number:** INM000010718	**Axis Capital Limited** 1st Floor, Axis House P.B. Marg, Worli Mumbai- 400 025 Maharashtra, India **Tel:** + 91 22 4325 2183 **E-mail:.** lenskart.ipo@axiscap.in **Website:** www.axiscapital.co.in **Investor Grievance E-mail:** complaints@axiscap.in **Contact Person:** Jigar Jain **SEBI Registration Number:** INM000012029	**Intensive Fiscal Services Private Limited** 914, 9th Floor, Raheja Chambers Free Press Journal Marg Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 2287 0443 **E-mail:** lenskart.ipo@intensivefiscal.com **Website:** www.intensivefiscal.com **Investor Grievance E-mail:** grievance.ib@intensivefiscal.com **Contact Person:** Harish Khajanchi / Anand Rawal **SEBI Registration Number:** INM000011112

REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER	COMPANY SECRETARY AND CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER
MUFG MUFG Intime	**Preeti Gupta** Ground Floor Vipul Tech Square, Golf Course Road Sector 43, DLF QE, Gurugram – 122 009, Haryana, India
MUFG Intime India Private Limited (*formerly Link Intime India Private Limited*) C-101, 247 Park 1st Floor, L B S Marg Vikhroli (West), Mumbai - 400 083, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 81081 14949, **E-mail:** lenskart.ipo@in.mpms.mufg.com, **Website:** www.in.mpms.mufg.com/ **Investor Grievance E-mail:** lenskart.ipo@in.mpms.mufg.com; **Contact Person:** Shanti Gopalkrishnan; **SEBI Registration Number:** INR000004058	Bidders may contact the Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, the BRLMs or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-Offer or post-Offer related grievances including non-receipt of letters of Allotment, non-receipt of Allotment Advice, non-credit of allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders or non-receipt of funds by electronic mode, etc. For all Offer related queries and for redressal of complaints, Bidders may also write to the BRLMs and / or Registrar.

AVAILABILITY OF RHP: Investors should note that Investment in Equity Shares involves a high degree of risk and investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the Risk Factors contained herein, before applying in the Offer. Full copy of the RHP shall be available at the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, the website of Stock Exchanges at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com the website of our Company at https://www.lenskart.com and the website of BRLMs, i.e., Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited, Avendus Capital Private Limited, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited, Axis Capital Limited and Intensive Fiscal Services Private Limited, at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, www.morganstanley.com/, www.avendus.com, https://www.citigroup.com/global/about-us/global-presence/india/disclaimer, www.axiscapital.co.in and www.intensivefiscal.com, respectively.

AVAILABILITY OF THE ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS: A copy of the abridged prospectus shall be available on the website of our Company at https://www.lenskart.com, the BRLMs, i.e., Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited, Avendus Capital Private Limited, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited, Axis Capital Limited and Intensive Fiscal Services Private Limited, at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, www.morganstanley.com/, www.avendus.com, https://www.citigroup.com/global/about-us/global-presence/india/disclaimer, www.axiscapital.co.in and www.intensivefiscal.com, respectively and the website of the Registrar to the Offer i.e., MUFG Intime India Private Limited (*Formerly Link Intime India Private Limited*) at www.in.mpms.mufg.com.

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORMS: Application forms can be obtained from the Registered Office of **Lenskart Solutions Limited**, **Tel:** +91 124 429 3191 and the **BRLMs –** Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, **Tel:** +91 22 4336 0000, Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited, **Tel:** +91 22 6118 1000, Avendus Capital Private Limited, **Tel:** +91 22 6648 0050, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited, **Tel:** +91 22 6175 9999, Axis Capital Limited, **Tel:** + 91 22 4325 2183, and Intensive Fiscal Services Private Limited, **Tel:** +91 22 2287 0443.

Syndicate Members: Kotak Securities Limited, **Tel:** +91 22 6218 5410, Intensive Softshare Pvt. Ltd., **Tel:** +91 22 2287 0443/44/45, Spark Institutional Equities Private Limited, **Tel:** +91 22 6885 4503 and at the select locations of the Sub-syndicate Members (as given below), SCSBs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Offer. Bid cum Application Forms will also be available on the websites of BSE and NSE and the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

APPLICATIONS SUPPORTED BY BLOCKED AMOUNT (ASBA): Investors have to apply through the ASBA process. ASBA has to be availed by all the investors. For details on ASBA process, please refer to the details given in the ASBA Form and Abridged Prospectus and also please refer to "***Offer Procedure***" on page 994 of RHP. Further ASBA Application forms can be obtained from Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of banks that are available on website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in and website of Stock Exchanges at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com. The investors are required to fill the Bid Cum Application form and submit the same to the relevant SCSBs at the specific locations or registered brokers at the broker centers or RTA or DP's. The SCSB's will block the amount in the account as per the authority contained in application form. On allotment, amount will be unblocked and account will be debited only to the extent required to be paid for allotment of shares. Hence, there will be no need of refund.

UPI: UPI Bidders can also Bid through UPI Mechanism.

Sub-Syndicate Members: Almondz Global Securities Ltd., Amrapali Capital & Finance Services Limited, Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Ltd., Anand Share Consultancy, ANS Pvt Limited, Asit C. Mehta Investment Interrmediates Ltd, Avendus Wealth Management Private Limited, Axis Securities Limited, Centrum Broking Limited, Dalal & Broacha Stock Broking Private Limited, DB (International) Stock Brokers Ltd, Finwizard Technology Private Limited, G Raj & Co. (Consultants) Limited, HDFC Securities Limited, ICICI Securities Limited, IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Limited, IIFL Securities Ltd, Innovate Securities Pvt Limited, Investmentor Securities Limited, Jhaveri Securities, JM Financial Services Limited, Jobanputra Fiscal Services Private Limited, K M Jain Stock Brokers Pvt Ltd, Kalpataru Multiplier Limited, Kantilal Chhaganlal Sec Pvt Ltd, Keynote Capitals Limited, KJMC Capital Market Services Limited, Lakshmishree Investment & Securities Pvt Ltd, LKP Securities Limited, Marwadi Shares & Finance, Mehta Equities Limited, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited, Motilal Oswal Securities Limited, Nirmal Bang Securities Pvt Limited, Nuvama Wealth and Investment Limited, Nuvama Wealth and Investment Limited (Edelweiss Broking Limited), Patel Wealth Advisors Pvt Limited, Prabhudas Lilladher Pvt Limited, Pravin Ratilal Share & Stock Brokers Limited, RR Equity Brokers Private Limited, SBIcap Securities Limited, Sharekhan Limited, SMC Global Securities Limited, Spark PWM Private Limited, SS Corporate Securities Limited, Tanna Financial Services, TradeBulls Securites Private Ltd., Upstox Securities Private Limited, Viren M Shah and YES Securities (India) Limited.

Bankers to the Offer

Escrow Collection Bank and Sponsor Bank: Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

Public Offer Account Bank, Refund Bank and Sponsor Bank: ICICI Bank Limited

All capitalized terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in RHP.

For **Lenskart Solutions Limited**
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Preeti Gupta
Company Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer

Place: Delhi
Date: October 31, 2025

Lenskart Solutions Limited is proposing, subject to, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offering of its Equity Shares and has filed the RHP with the RoC on October 25, 2025. The RHP shall be available on the website of the Company at https://www.lenskart.com, SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, as well as on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited, Avendus Capital Private Limited, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited, Axis Capital Limited and Intensive Fiscal Services Private Limited at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, www.morganstanley.com/, www.avendus.com, https://www.citigroup.com/global/about-us/global-presence/india/disclaimer, www.axiscapital.co.in and www.intensivefiscal.com, respectively and the websites of National Stock Exchange of India Limited and BSE Limited at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com, respectively. Any potential investor should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see ***"Risk Factors"*** on page 64 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP for making any investment decision and instead should place reliance on the RHP and Addendum cum Corrigendum. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "***Risk Factors***" beginning on page 64 of the RHP. This announcement has been prepared for publication in India only and is not for publication or distribution, directly or indirectly, in or into the United States. The equity shares described in this announcement have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "**U.S. Securities Act**") or any other applicable law of the United States and, unless so registered, may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable U.S. state securities laws. Accordingly, the equity shares of the Company are being offered and sold (i) within the United States only to persons reasonably believed to be "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A of the U.S. Securities Act) pursuant to Section 4(a) of the U.S. Securities Act, and (ii) outside the United States in "offshore transactions", as defined in and in reliance on, Regulation S of the U.S. Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdictions where those offers and sales occur. There will be no public offering of securities in the United States.

Adfactors

Bengaluru Monday, November 3, 2025 Pages 16 Vol 78 No 303 ₹7

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DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Trump threatens military action in Nigeria

US Prez says Christianity 'facing an existential threat' in African country

Page 10

India's data centre boom powered by Google, OpenAI

Business *Page 8*

JD(U) candidate held for murder; EC vows peaceful poll

Anant Singh has been fielded from Mokama; poll panel transfers officials

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a roadshow in Patna on Sunday. PTI

Anant Singh in Patna on Sunday.

CRACKING DOWN

- A 150-member police team arrests Anant Singh at his house in Barh, brings him to Patna
- Anant Singh reportedly gunned down Dularchand Yadav, supporter of Jan Suraaj candidate Piyush Priyadarshi, on October 30
- EC suspends SHO (Mokama), SDO and the SDPO and transfers Rural SP of Patna
- Arrest comes amid Modi roadshow and BJP attack over RJD's 'jungle raj'

JD(U) candidate from Mokama Anant Singh was arrested by police in the early hours of Sunday for the alleged murder of a Jan Suraaj supporter, with the high-profile arrest of the don-turned-politician coming amid a warning by the EC that it will not tolerate "any act violence" and is committed to ensuring a peaceful poll in Bihar.

The development came as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a huge roadshow in Patna on Sunday without Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, too, is camping in the state capital, over-seeing poll management. Both the BJP leaders have been singing paeans to Nitish for establishing the rule of law in the state.

BIHAR VOTES

The senior SP of Patna, Kartikey Sharma, under whose jurisdiction comes Mokama, led a 150-member police team to arrest Singh for the alleged murder of Dularchand Yadav at his house in Barh. In the early hours of Sunday, Anant was brought to Patna.

"During investigation, it was found Anant was present at the incident site where Dularchand Yadav was killed. He has been arrested while two of his absconding relatives, named in the FIR, will be apprehended soon," said the SSP.

Police also arrested two other persons, Manikant Thakur and Ranjeet Ram. Later, a Patna court remanded all three to 14-day judicial custody. Bihar Police has so far arrested 80 people in connection with the murder of Yadav.

Anant Singh reportedly gunned down Yadav, supporter of Jan Suraaj candidate Piyush Priyadarshi, on October 30. But Yadav's post-mortem examination report showed that he died of cardiorespiratory failure due to shock caused by injury to the heart and lungs by a hard and blunt substance, PTI quoted SSP Sharma as saying.

▸ Bihar, Page 4

Indian women script history with WC win

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Indian women's cricket team etched its name into sporting folklore on Sunday, claiming its first-ever World Cup with a stirring 52-run triumph over South Africa at a roaring DY Patil Stadium.

If June 25, 1983 marked the dawn of India's men's cricket glory, November 2, 2025 will stand as the defining day for its women. Watching from the stands, Rohit Sharma prayed Harmanpreet Kaur wouldn't suffer the heartbreak he once did. When Harmanpreet clutched Nadine de Klerk's catch at extra cover, Ian Bishop's words — "inspiring generations" — rang true, as AR Rahman's "Vande Mataram" soared through the stands.

There were many heroes that stood out in India's victory, but none more so than the 21-year-old Shafali Verma and veteran Deepti Sharma. A late addition to the squad, Shafali transformed the stage into her own epic. Her blistering 87 powered India to a formidable 298 for 7, before she chipped in with two crucial wickets to crush South Africa's chase at 246.

TOP 3 INDIAN run-getters

434 runs — Smriti Mandhana

308 runs — Pratika Rawal

292 runs — Jemimah Rodrigues

Best economy rate

3.75 — Pratika Rawal

Highest strike rate

133.52 — Richa Ghosh

Player of the series

215 runs & 22 wkts — Deepti Sharma

TOP 3 INDIAN wicket takers

22 wickets — Deepti Sharma

14 wickets — Shree Charani

9 wickets — Kranti Gaud

Road to final

LEAGUE STAGE

- Won by **59 runs** vs Sri Lanka
- Won by **88 runs** vs Pakistan
- Lost by **3 wkts** vs South Africa
- Lost by **3 wkts** vs Australia
- Lost by **4 runs** vs England
- Won by **53 runs** vs NZ
- vs Bangladesh (No result)

SEMIFINAL

- Won by **5 wkts** vs Aus

See page 12

15 die as tempo traveller rams into stationary truck in Raj

JAIPUR, PTI: At least 15 people died and two others were injured when a tempo traveller carrying devotees rammed into a stationary trailer truck in Rajasthan's Phalodi on Sunday, police said.

The incident occurred on the Bharat Mala Highway.

"Fifteen passengers died, while two others sustained serious injuries. The injured were first taken to a hospital in Osian for primary treatment and later referred to Jodhpur," Jodhpur Police Commissioner Om Prakash said.

According to police, the victims were residents of Jodhpur and were returning from a temple in Bikaner.

Mahipal Saran, a witness, said roadside eateries had been set up along the highway. "The trailer was parked in front of one of those eateries. The tempo traveller was trying to overtake a truck when it suddenly rammed into the trailer," he said.

Uploading of work details must for payment, govt tells contractors

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The treasury will release money for tendered civil works only if all relevant details are uploaded on the contract management module (CMM), the government has mandated in a new order, which authorities say is a big transparency measure.

The CMM has been in use since August 2024, but there was no mandate linking payments with uploading of work details.

> We will have end-to-end information as to how the work is progressing, who's responsible for it and so on. We want to bring in transparency and better monitoring.
>
> **PC JAFFER,** Finance Secretary (Budget & Resources)

At a Karnataka Development Programme in September, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh found that only 505 out of 36,709 tendered works had been uploaded on the module. Based on her directive, the finance department has issued the new order.

Any public work costing above Rs 5 lakh should be tendered as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act. The CMM captures the progress of these works.

▸ Payment, Page 4

Couple dead, 2 injured as ambulance runs amok in B'luru

BENGALURU, DHNS: A couple was killed and two others were injured in a devastating hit-and-run accident late Saturday night after an ambulance, allegedly driven at excessive speed and in a careless manner, collided with two scooters at the busy KH Junction in Shanthinagar, central Bengaluru, police said.

The 20-year-old driver abandoned the ambulance and fled the scene immediately, leaving the injured victims behind. However, the police traced and detained him on Sunday morning.

While the driver didn't appear to have been under the influence of alcohol, DCP (Traffic, West) Anoop Shetty confirmed there were no patients inside the emergency vehicle when the accident occurred.

"We are verifying with the hospital whether there was any emergency call that he was attending," Shetty told *DH*.

According to a complaint filed by an eyewitness, the Force Tempo Traveller ambulance was speeding from the Richmond Circle flyover towards Lalbagh when it struck a Suzuki Access scooter around 11.15 pm.

▸ Accident, Page 4

The accident spot at KH Junction. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

'Bahubali' launches Isro's heaviest communication satellite from Indian soil

Isro's launch vehicle LVM3-M5 carrying the communication satellite CMS-03 lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. PTI

CHENNAI, DHNS: The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) on Sunday successfully launched its heaviest communication satellite from Indian soil into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

Known as 'Bahubali' for its heavy lift capability, the LVM3-M5 rocket launched the 4,410 kg communication satellite, CMS-03, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota. Sixteen minutes into the flight, the rocket placed the satellite into the required orbit, upon reaching an altitude of approximately 180 km.

The CMS-03 communication satellite will operate on multiple bands.

Details on Page 10

Glitchy RTO software triggers drop in LL applications in state

SHAYIN MOKASHI
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) across Karnataka have reported a drop in learner's licence (LL) applications following the rollout of the SmartLock software, an AI-enabled security layer embedded into the state government's Sarathi platform to prevent impersonation in online tests.

Data from various RTOs accessed by *DH* shows that Chitradurga (80%) has seen the sharpest fall in LL test applications. Bagalkot (50%), Hubballi (30%), Hosapete (47%), Shivamogga (15%), Sirsi (20%), Belagavi (30%), Kalaburagi (20%) are the other RTOs that have seen a decline in the number of applications.

Officials acknowledge the slump, attributing it to a combination of technical errors, compatibility issues, and authentication failures that are preventing legitimate applicants from even entering the test window. At the same time, they claim that the system has helped reduce malpractice and middlemen intervention, making the test legally defensible and transparent.

> It recognises my face briefly and then throws an error before closing the window. I tried in multiple lighting conditions and backgrounds, but it just doesn't work. The RTO staff say it's a software issue and cannot help
>
> **SHASHANK B**
> resident of Hubballi

The problem begins at the entry stage itself. The SmartLock application, designed to create a secure and tamper-proof environment, requires specific operating systems. It supports only Windows 10 and above on desktops and offers limited functionality on Android.

▸ RTO, Page 4

GREENER ENERGY

Boost for biodiesel as state plans fuel pumps at taluk level

DH EXCLUSIVE

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a big push for biodiesel, the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board has decided to set up biodiesel pumps at taluk level in partnership with private players.

While running of these pumps has to be done by the private companies, the board will provide them support in getting permissions from government bodies and help market the fuel.

Biodiesel is diesel produced from cooking oil, oil seeds, and such other eco-friendly agricultural products.

Though many companies have approached the deputy commissioners of respective districts seeking permission to set up biodiesel pumps, at least 70 such applications have been pending at various offices since the procedure to set up such facilities was not laid out.

Cleaner, cheaper push

Biodiesel produced from cooking oil, oil seeds, paddy straws, etc.

- Price expected to be at least Rs 5/ litre lower than regular diesel
- Only internationally fit B100 biodiesel will be sold
- State has a huge stock of biodiesel
- Oil companies buy and blend them with normal diesel, but cost benefits not passed on to consumers

Recently, the state notified the 'Karnataka State Biodiesel (B-100) Blending with High Speed Diesel for Transportation Purposes (Licensing) Order, 2025', which allows private companies to set up pumps and market biodiesel.

"We want more companies to come forward and set up pumps. Though there is a stock of biodiesel and many are ready to sell it, there were procedural problems in setting up such pumps, which has been addressed with the notification," said S E Sudheendra, chairman, bioenergy development board.

▸ Biodiesel, Page 4

Quickly

Big military exercise along Guj coast

India is carrying out its biggest military exercise along the coast of Gujarat and western borders of Rajasthan involving all the three Services. Exercise Trishul involves more than 50,000 troops, aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, submarines and over 40 IAF jets.

Details on Page 10

3 B'luru med students drown in Kannur

Three medical students from Bengaluru drowned at Payyambalam beach in Kannur, Kerala, on Sunday. The deceased were part of a 11-member group that came on a tour to Kannur on Saturday. Police identified the deceased as Afnan Ahammed, 26, Mohammed Rehanuddin, 26, and Moahmmed Afroza, 25.

Details on Page 4

Bodies of 3 girls washed away in canal recovered

The bodies of three girls, who were washed away in the Ramaswamy Canal in Mandya district on Saturday, were retrieved on Sunday. Six students from Mysuru had entered the canal waters and were washed away by strong currents on Saturday. Locals had rescued three of them, of which a girl died later.

Details on Page 4

Ladakh: Centre seeks fresh draft of demands

Taking a step forward in its dialogue with representatives from Ladakh, the MHA has sought a fresh and detailed draft of demands from the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) before the next round of talks in New Delhi.

Details on Page 5

Briton held over UK train mass stabbing

Two people remained in life-threatening condition on Sunday after mass stabbings which injured 10 people on a high-speed London-bound train, as British Transport Police ruled out a terrorism link to the incident. One UK-born men remain in custody after being arrested at the scene of the attack.

Details on Page 10

New Russian sub to carry nuclear drone

Russia has launched its latest nuclear submarine to be armed with a 'Poseidon' nuclear drone, also known as 'doomsday missile' capable of "wiping out" coastal nations.

Details on Page 10

Pre-conception cell raises alarm over illegal foetal scans

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

'Balika' website

The government has made it compulsory for both government and private hospitals to use the 'Balika' website to register pregnant women undergoing scans.

The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Department is focusing on the sex ratio in each of the state's 31 districts to curb female foeticide.

Since 2022, Bengaluru city has recorded the second highest number of sex determination cases, behind Bagalkot. Tumakuru and Ramanagara ranked third and fourth, respectively.

Bengaluru city has about 1,500 active scanning centres. After tightening surveillance in 2024, more cases surfaced, with 36 violations reported that year. This year, 10 cases have been registered so far, officials said.

Dr Vivek Dorai, State Nodal Officer for PCPNDT, said, "The northern part of the state and Bengaluru city have become challenging to tame.

"We have difficulties with informants, especially in Bengaluru, as people do not even know what their own neighbours are up to."

Dakshina Kannada and Udupi remain low on the list with almost zero cases.

Officials said sex determination tests are being conducted not only in hospitals, but also in homes and farmhouses to avoid suspicion, aided by portable and unregistered scanning machines. "Many are repeat violators and frequently change their place of business to escape crackdowns," said the officer.

Illegal scanners charge up to Rs 30,000 per person to reveal the sex of the foetus, and some also run private practices. "With these portable scanners, they run the scan only on the private parts of the baby to reveal the gender to the parents. Even if they are wrong, nobody can hold them accountable as they would have left the place by then," said Dr Dorai.

Violators have also built networks involving ASHA workers, technicians, and doctors to reach more pregnant women, officials said.

In hospitals, the failure to maintain records often draws official scrutiny.

SHANTHINAGAR CRASH

Ambulance crew insist 'we save, not risk lives'

Drivers urge not to taint them after a stray incident

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The speeding ambulance that killed a couple and injured two others in a chain accident in Shanthinagar around midnight on Saturday has renewed questions about the safety of both ambulance drivers and other commuters.

A similar accident had occurred at the same junction—H Siddaiah Road and KH Road—in May, when an ambulance driver lost control of the vehicle and injured six people.

PG Krishna Murthy of Sanjeevini Ambulance Services said drivers were regularly instructed to drive carefully and follow traffic rules. "Every week, we remind our drivers to be mindful despite the pressure. Unless the case is very critical, we do not encourage breaking traffic laws," he said.

Murthy added that police had asked ambulance service providers to use an app that updates the control room about patient movement so that traffic can be cleared accordingly. "We have also deployed ambulances in different parts of the city, so drivers do not have to drive rashly to reach far-off places," he noted.

V Narayana of Vinayaka Ambulance Services said they maintain vehicles regularly and have introduced a shift system to prevent driver fatigue. "We specifically instruct them not to drive on the wrong side. Motorists approaching from the right may not be as attentive," he said.

"By driving rashly, drivers risk their lives too. We have also warned them strictly against drunk driving," he added.

Narayana said many motorists still lack awareness about giving way to ambulances.

"Even after we inform the police and switch on the siren, people often refuse to make way," Narayana said.

Ambulance driver M Kumaraswamy said, "Even with all the pressure, we understand the responsibility we carry—for our lives and those of others. But when one incident like this happens, all of us are dragged through the mud."

He added, "We are expected to switch on the siren and speed up even while going to pick up patients. Then we face allegations of speeding and using the siren just to escape traffic."

The scene of the fatal ambulance crash at Wilson Garden's KH Junction late Saturday night. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

V NARAYANA
Vinayaka Ambulance Services

"Many motorists still lack awareness about giving way to ambulances. Even after we inform the police and switch on the siren, people often refuse to make way.

Metro staff reunite 6-yr-old girl with mother

BENGALURU, DHNS: Namma Metro staff rescued a six-year-old girl who got separated from her mother at the Majestic station on Saturday afternoon and helped reunite them.

The incident occurred at 12.30 pm when the child lost sight of her mother.

A fellow passenger handed her to the security staff. Metro authorities alerted all station controllers. The mother was traced to the Mahakavi Kumempu station, and the two were later reunited at Majestic.

A metro official with the girl. The mother and daughter were reunited at Majestic. BMRCL

Cab rams bike in road rage on KR Puram flyover

BENGALURU, DHNS

In yet another case of road rage, a cab driver allegedly rammed his car into a two-wheeler on the KR Puram flyover in eastern Bengaluru, injuring both the rider and the pillion rider.

The incident, which occurred at 1.15 pm on October 31, was captured on the dashboard camera of a car moving behind the cab.

The video shows the cabbie and the two-wheeler rider engaged in a heated argument. Moments later, the cabbie swerves right and hits the motorcycle, throwing both riders off balance.

While the pillion rider was dislodged, the rider managed to steady the motorcycle after an initial struggle.

K Parashuram, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Whitefield), wrote on X that both riders had been contacted, but they refused to file a complaint. However, a petition has been filed against the cab driver at the Mahadevapura police station, he added.

The incident was captured on the dashboard camera of a car moving behind the cab.

Planetarium screens India's heaviest satellite launch

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium screened the launch of CMS-03, the heaviest satellite to be launched from Indian soil into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO), on Sunday evening.

The LVM3-M5 rocket, nicknamed 'Bahubali' for its heavy-lift capability, carried the 4,410-kg communication satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, near Chennai.

Science enthusiasts, including many children, attended the screening, where planetarium director Dr BR Guruprasad provided live commentary in English and Kannada to help the public understand the technical aspects of the mission.

"This launch is a fantastic example of a self-reliant India and yet another successful launch of a communication satellite. It is also the heaviest satellite launched by our country," Dr Guruprasad told *DH*.

"Young girls were really enthusiastic when we spoke about female engineers involved in the project," he added.

Childless woman kidnaps 4-year-old child

BENGALURU, DHNS: Married thrice but without a child, a 43-year-old woman allegedly kidnapped a four-year-old boy in northern Bengaluru last month.

The woman, Hemavathi, and her friend Khurshid alias Kamala allegedly kidnapped the boy from near his home in Hunasemaranahalli on October 25.

Police said Hemavathi, who had separated from all three husbands and did not have a child, sought Khurshid's help to plan the abduction. Investigators scanned CCTV footage, which showed a woman picking up the boy. Police arrested both women.

SRI GURU RAGHAVENDRA SAHAKARA BANK NIYAMITHA
ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರು ರಾಘವೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿಯಮಿತ
15, Subbarama Chetty Road, Nettakallappa Circle, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004.
Ph.No. 26620380, 26620379, Fax : 080-26506895, E-mail : sgrsbn.bank@gmail.com,
Website : www.raghavendrabank.com

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank (N), a RBI Licensed, Non-Scheduled, Tier-III, Urban Co-operative Bank having its Headquarters at Basavanagudi, Bangalore, Karnataka, **invites** Financial Institutions including Banks & Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) / Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) / FinTech Companies controlled by Residents, Resident Individuals / Professionals (singly or jointly), Companies, Merger with Societies, Trusts or any other such entities as Prospective Investors to **take over the Bank.**

Interested prospects are requested to visit the Bank's website **www.raghavendrabank.com** for the full details & submit their EOI by way of hard copy or email at **administrator@raghavendrabank.com** on or before **03-12-2025 (3rd December 2025), 16.00 hrs (4.00 pm).**

For any clarifications, the Administrator may be contacted at **8147036240.**

Sd/-
Ajit Krishnan Nair,Administrator

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-281(87)/25-26/3331-32 Date: 31.10.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Mode Only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Circle(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/25-26/EPR-16, Call-1, Dated 31.10.2025 for the work of Increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66kV Overhead EHT line crossings at Railway km No.03/800-900 Double circuit between Channasandra (CSDR) - Yelahanka (YNK) Railway station in Hoody Division, Bengaluru under DCW basis (on TTK on Percentage basis) in the Tr(Op) Circle-South , Bengaluru.

The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **03.11.2025**. Other details can be obtained from office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), Transmission (Operations) Circle-South, Ground Floor, KPTCL Office Complex, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru - 09.

THE DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS
Madhya Pradesh
Gautam Nagar, Bhopal 462023

BIDNO.: Sandipani/I.P./ 2025/2457 **DATE :30/10/2025**

-:NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER ::-

Website: https://gem.gov.in Email: tenders@imarsh.mp.gov.in

ALL INDIA COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISIONING OF INTERACTIVE PANEL TO VARIOUS SCHOOLS UNDER THE DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS. M.P.

Sr. No.	Name Of Item	Quantity	Required EMD
01	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISIONING OF INTERACTIVE PANEL (WITH 03 YEAR ON-SITE WARRANTY)	10149	Rs. 1,06,00,000/- (Rs One Crore Six lakh only/-)

1. The Tender Should be submitted online on websitehttps.//gem.gov.in GEM/2025/B/6837213 and within scheduled date and time.
2. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly till closing date of the submission to keep them selves update as any change / modifications in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum / addendum/ amendments.
3. Bid will be opened as per date / time as mentioned.
4. EMD should be deposited online through the gem.gov.in portal.

SCHEDULE DATE & TIME:-

Document publish/download/Sale start date	30/10/2025 at 18:00hrs.
Pre-bid queries Submission Start Dale	30/10/2025 at 18:10hrs.
Pre-bid queries Submission End Date	03/11/2025 at 17:00hrs.
Pre-Bid Meeting Date	04/11/2025 at 12:00hrs.
Pre-bid queries Response Submission Date	10/11/2025 at 18:00hrs.
Bid Submission End Date	19/11/2025 at 17:00hrs.
Opening of Technical Bid	19/11/2025 at 17:30hrs.

Sd/- Director
Directorate of Public Instructions,
Madhya Pradesh

G-20876/25

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Discussion: Nobel Prize Dialogue Bengaluru-The Future We Want; David McMillan, James Robinson, Gagandeep Kang and Montek Singh Ahluwalia to attend; JN Tata Auditorium, Indian Institute of Science (IISc); 10 am.

CULTURAL

Concert: C Ramesh, S Shashidhar, and Srinivas Anantharamayya to attend; Yoganarasimha Sannidhi, Venugopalaswamy Temple, Malleswaram; from 6.15 pm onwards.

Cultural conference: Organised by Department of Kannada and Culture, Karnataka Sangeet Nritya Academy; Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; from 10 am onwards.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.0°C
Minimum	19.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	58%
Sunset (Nov 3)	5:53 pm
Sunrise (Nov 4)	3:19 pm
Moonrise	12:30 pm
Moonset	2:49 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published in thiscolumn should be sent to:
incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.
Please note that hard copieswill not be accepted

Woman stabbed to death by lover in KG Halli

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 40-year-old woman was allegedly stabbed to death by her lover in eastern Bengaluru, police officials said on Sunday.

Renuka, a resident of Pillanna Garden in KG Halli, was said to be in a relationship with Kutti, 43, who works at a finance firm and lives nearby. They became close after Renuka divorced her husband.

Renuka, who worked as a house help, had been urging him to marry her so their relationship could be made public. But Kutti refused.

On October 31, Kutti called Renuka as she was returning from work and asked her to meet him near a government school in Pillanna Garden.

During the meeting, they argued about marriage, and in a fit of rage, Kutti pulled out a knife and stabbed Renuka as passersby watched, before fleeing. She later died in hospital.

The jurisdictional KG Halli police have registered a case of murder and arrested Kutti.

25-year-old woman's decomposed body found at home

BENGALURU, DHNS: The decomposed body of a 25-year-old woman was found in her north Bengaluru home over the weekend, officials said on Sunday.

Supriya, a Davangere native working at a private firm in the city, was found hanging in her rented house in Gayathri Nagar, near Rajajinagar, on November 1.

Police said the room was locked from the inside and no death note was found.

The Subramanyanagar police have registered an Unnatural Death Report (UDR) and launched a probe. The body has been shifted for post-mortem procedures.

Transwoman assault slammed

BENGALURU, DHNS: Transgender organisations Sangama and the Movement for Gender and Sexual Pluralism (MGSP) have condemned the assault, kidnapping and forcible tonsuring of 24-year-old transwoman Sukanya.

Sukanya, of Roopena Agrahara, along with other community members, was kidnapped around 3 pm on October 30 from KR Puram. She was beaten with a wooden stick and a ladle through the night, and her head was forcibly shaved. The assault arose from tensions surrounding Sukanya's alleged wish to move from one hijra gharana to another.

Need a hand? Write to us

Letters of grievances are pouring in and we are doing our best to accommodate as many as possible. Readers may write in to highlight civic problems affecting their locality and we will help address them in an interactive and effective manner.

Grievances and issues related to public utility agencies such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) would be highlighted in the weekly column.

The writeups, which could be accompanied by photographs highlighting the problems, will be published on Mondays.

Mail your grievances to: peoplesproblems @ deccanherald.co.in

Leaking pipe troubles elderly residents

It has been a month since Benson Road in Benson Town was dug up to lay new water pipes. Soon after, a leak developed opposite the Wesley Old Age Home gate, leaving the stretch waterlogged and messy, causing distress to elderly residents and inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians.

On October 23, a car got stuck in a large rut opposite the home.

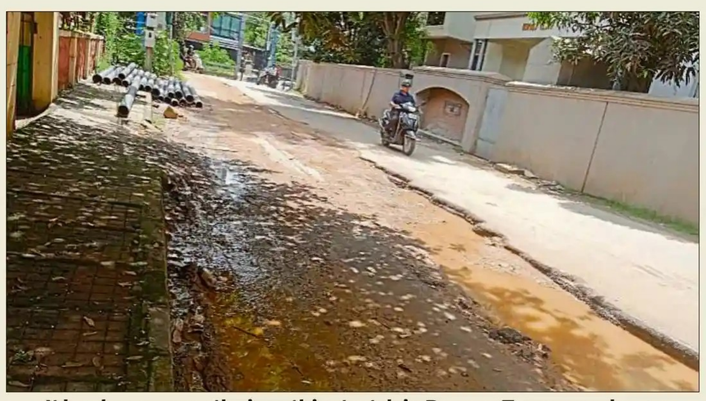
Residents have repeatedly complained to the Jayamahal service station.

Workers visited the site on October 10, inspected it, and reportedly shifted responsibility to the Shivajinagar MLA's office. A complaint (No 242761) was also registered with the BWSSB call centre (1916) on October 17.

When workers returned on October 24, they claimed the leak was due to a broken pipe belonging to Wesley Home and asked the institution to provide materials for repairs. The issue, however, remains unresolved.

Senior BWSSB officials are urged to address the problem at the earliest to ease the hardship faced by the home's elderly residents.

Arda Kaikhushroo Batha,
Benson Cross Road,
Benson Town



It has been a month since this stretch in Benson Town was dug up to lay new water pipes.

Drastic measures needed to curb one-way violations

With rapid infrastructure growth in roads, rail, and metro, accidents have become a daily concern. There is an urgent need to raise awareness against dangerous driving, particularly the use of mobile phones while operating vehicles. Alarmingly, many drivers remain "glued" to their devices, watching videos, putting lives at risk.

Equally concerning is the blatant disregard for one-way traffic rules. Despite road medians, drivers illegally squeeze through every available stretch, endangering themselves and others.

The police must enforce rules without yielding to pressure, imposing strict penalties for violations. Authorities need to act decisively to curb reckless driving and reduce the rising number of accidents amid growing traffic volumes.

BS Chandrashekar
13th Cross, Malleswaram

Garbage eating up roads in Abbigere

The entire Royal Street in Shettyhalli/Abbigere is dotted with multiple garbage blackspots, with waste piling up to the point of spilling onto the road.

Adding to the mess, drains are overflowing at several points. While civic responsibility is essential, the authorities must also ensure that garbage is collected on a daily basis.

Santosh Hegde

Tunnel road: Think through it

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar appears determined to push ahead with the tunnel road project, but the growing body of scientific evidence against it cannot be ignored.

As a taxpayer, I expect our elected leaders to weigh public projects carefully, multiple times, regardless of their scale. Such initiatives cannot be a one-man show, especially when public money is at stake. This situation brings to mind the biblical story of Balaam, who, despite his wisdom, failed to see the signs before him. It took the humble donkey he rode—speaking through divine intervention—to remind him that he was on the wrong path, blinded by the lure of power and wealth.

Francis Doss

BJP leaders hold 'silent stir' against 'VIP' tunnel road, favour metro expansion

Tell govt to fix potholes before project at Lalbagh protest

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka with Bangalore South MP L S Tejasvi Surya, MLAs Uday Garudachar, C K Ramamurthy and others during a protest against the Bengaluru tunnel road project at Lalbagh on Sunday.

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The political confrontation over the government's ambitious tunnel road project intensified on Sunday, with Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka and Bangalore South MP L S Tejasvi Surya leading a "Save Bengaluru, Stop Tunnel Road" silent protest at Lalbagh.

The leaders, joined by thousands of morning walkers, conducted a signature campaign against the plan, branding it a colossal waste of public money focused solely on the city's elite.

Speaking to reporters after a site inspection and discussion with the walkers' association, Ashoka dismissed the project as "VIP corridor," not twin tunnel. He questioned its financial prudence, stating an estimated Rs 8,000-crore tender has been called for. When offset against the city's Rs 4,000-crore corporation tax collection, it would necessitate a Rs 4,000-crore loan, raising concerns about interest repayment, he said.

"Bengaluru's 90% population comprises the middle and lower-middle classes. This is a VIP project permitting only car entry," he said.

Highlighting the disproportionate focus on car owners, who represent a small fraction of the city's commuters, he argued that citizens would pay Rs 20,000 per month in tolls — an amount that could buy a 2BHK home on EMIs.

He challenged Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on procedural and technical grounds and questioned if the Geological Survey of India's permission had been secured and said projects like Ejipura flyover had already lapsed a decade past their deadline.

"If you can guarantee that Bengaluru's traffic problem will all be solved, we will extend our support," he affirmed, before taking a swipe at the city's notorious infrastructure.

"Before constructing the tunnel, potholes on roads over it, which are entering Guinness Book of Records, should be repaired first".

Surya noted that 5,000-6,000 people had signed the protest board. He said the estimated cost — Rs 43,000 crore for two tunnel road projects spanning 30 km — could instead fund over 300 km of metrorail construction.

Stressing that public transport, which carries 60,000 commuters per hour (against the tunnel's projected 1,800 vehicles), is the viable solution, he suggested extending and doubling the metro network.

Citing a 1975 Act, both politicians alleged that the project targets public properties like Lalbagh and Sankey Tank illegally, because the government has become "pauper," further questioning the legality of calling a tender before securing permissions from all 120 required departments.

They urged the government to prioritise completion of the 50-plus pending underpasses and flyovers before embarking on the tunnel project.

Legal violations

- Environment Protection Act, 1986
- Karnataka Ancient and Historical Monuments Act, 1961
- Constitution of India (Article 21 – Right to Life, Article 48A, and 51A (G))
- National Green Tribunal Act, 2010
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- Air Pollution Control Act, 1981
- Noise Pollution Act, 2000

'Why tunnel project is bad'

Environmental & hydrological damage: Severe impact on biodiversity and green space, leading to damage to groundwater flow and recharge system.

Habitat & flooding risk: Risk of flooding in the historic Lalbagh Lake and danger to the habitat of nearly all bird species residing in the trees.

Climate and health: Lalbagh is a vital natural oxygen source for southern Bengaluru and critical for maintaining the city's climate balance.

Botanical heritage: Threatening the survival of centuries-old and rare botanical trees. Threat to the deep-rooted tree systems and the structural integrity of the historic Lalbagh hill.

Geological heritage: The Lalbagh hill, featuring the 3-billion-year-old Peninsular Gneiss Rock (one of the world's oldest rocks), is under imminent threat.

Ecosystem services: The project must be stopped to safeguard essential ecosystem services, including air purification, rainwater harvesting, temperature control, public health and tourism.

Unesco tag: The tunnel construction directly affects the potential for Lalbagh to achieve future Unesco world heritage site status, based on its historical and botanical significance.

Why buy a new car before wedding, can't you use public transport?: DKS to Surya

Ready to form committee under Ashoka to review tunnel project, says deputy CM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday took a swipe at Bangalore South MP L S Tejasvi Surya, questioning why he had applied for a new car before his wedding while publicly urging citizens to avoid car travel.

"He asks people not to travel by car but he had applied for a new car before his wedding. We can release his application if you want. Why did he need a new car? Why can't he travel by metro or bus as he advocates?" Shivakumar said, speaking to reporters at his residence in Sadashivanagar.

Responding to BJP's signature campaign against the tunnel road project, the DCM said they should make constructive suggestions rather than indulge in political attacks.

D K SHIVAKUMAR
Deputy Chief Minister

"I am not a fool to destroy Lalbagh. I know its history and what areas are being used. The BJP opposes every development project. They even opposed the steel flyover during (then Bengaluru development minister) K J George's time

"The tunnel road is not my personal project but a public project. When an underground metro can be built in Bengaluru, why not a tunnel road? We have done all kinds of studies before finalising this project," he said.

Shivakumar reiterated that he was ready to form a committee under Opposition Leader R Ashoka comprising members of the BJP's choice to review the tunnel project.

"I am not a fool to destroy Lalbagh. I know its history and what areas are being used. The BJP opposes every development project. They even opposed the steel flyover during (then Bengaluru development minister) K J George's time," he said.

On expanding the metro and the suburban rail network in Bengaluru, Shivakumar challenged the BJP leaders to get additional funds from the Centre. He also noted that there is "no space" to build a Bus Rapid Transport System (BRTS) in Bengaluru, claiming a similar experiment in Hubballi-Dharwad had failed.

'Admonished in the US'

Asked about allegations that Shivakumar was threatening Surya and Jayanagar MLA C K Ramamurthy, he said: "Why should I threaten them? Ramamurthy is our man. Tejasvi Surya is a big leader. He is a clever politician and that is why he tried to open the emergency door of an aircraft. He was also admonished in the US for trying to meet Donald Trump".

Two wild jumbos killed by illegal electric fence

KHANAPUR (BELAGAVI DIST), DHNS: Two male wild elephants died of electrocution after they came in contact with an illegal electric fence erected around a farm at Devarayi village under Nagargali forest limits in the taluk on Sunday.

According to forest officials, the carcasses of a jumbo aged 20 to 22 years old and another aged 45 were found at a farm owned by Ganapati Guruv of Sullegali village.

Cases have been registered against the owner of the farm and the Hescom at the Nagargali range office under Belagavi forest division.

Forest officials said the elephants had come from Dandeli forest to Nagargali range in search of food.

AI, Command Centre to prevent man-animal conflict: Khandre

CHAMARAJANAGAR, DHNS: :An Artificial Intelligence-based drone camera will be used to prevent the man-animal conflict at Bandipur forest. A Command Centre will be set up to to prevent wild animals straying into the villages, said Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre.

Eshwar Khandre

With the tiger attack incidents on the rise in Saragur limits in Mysuru district, and growing outrage among the people in the region demanding measures to resolve the issue, the minister held a meeting with the farmer leaders in Chamarajanagar on Sunday.

The minister assured that the suggestions and cooperation of the locals and farmers will be taken to prevent the man-animal conflict. Locals will also be included in the wildlife-human conflict management task force, he said.

"Our government has not given approval for illegal mining, resorts and homestays in the forest area. If there are complaints against the illegal activities in the forest area, stern action will be taken," he warned.

There were 12 tigers at Bandipur in 1972. Currently there are more than 153 tigers. Human-animal conflict has increased as there is no expansion of the forest cover, keeping up with the number of tigers. On an average, around 55 to 60 people die due to wild animal attacks in Karnataka every year. In 2021-22 there were 41 deaths reported. It was 57 in 2022-23, 65 in 2023-24, 46 in 2024-25 and 30 deaths in 2025-26, so far, he said.

Tunnel road not just for cars, BJP's protest political: CM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Sunday that the tunnel road project would benefit not only car users, but also bus commuters, two-wheeler riders and pedestrians.

Speaking to reporters at a sports event at Kanteerava stadium here, he dismissed suggestions that the project was designed keeping the rich in mind and claimed that citizens had not opposed it.

He called the BJP's opposition to the tunnel road "political in nature".

"The BJP is opposing it for political reasons. Why should there be opposition to a project aimed at resolving traffic problems? Similar tunnel projects have been implemented in many countries, and people there have not opposed them," he said.

Siddaraimaiah said that Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar had already responded on the matter and added that a committee would be formed under Leader of the R Ashoka to examine the concerns about the project and arrive at a consensus.

BDA says no land acquired for PRR project would be monetised

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has announced that the 2,410 acres of land notified for the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project will be used for building a 65-metre-wide road, while the remaining 35 metres will be reserved to compensate land losers as commercial or mixed land use sites.

"The fact is, in this project, the BDA is not retaining any real estate out of the current acquisitions," L K Atheeq, Chairperson of Bengaluru Business Corridor Ltd, which has been entrusted with implementing the PRR project, wrote on X, dismissing rumours that the excess land would be monetised.

BDA Commissioner Major Manivannan P joined the debate, stating: "As per my information, the BDA doesn't retain any real estate in this project and is offering the entire available land to farmers as compensation."

MAJOR MANIVANNAN P
BDA Commissioner

"As per my information, the BDA doesn't retain any real estate in this project and is offering the entire available land to farmers as compensation

Legal trouble

The BDA has offered five compensation options to farmers whose land has been notified for the PRR project. While the BDA Act permits compensation in cash or through developed sites, there is no legal provision to extend Transferable Development Rights (TDR) or Floor Area Ratio (FAR) benefits. There is also no clarity on how the BDA fixed 35% of developed commercial sites as compensation in the absence of a legal framework.

Officials maintain that offering a wider range of compensation options is intended to make the package more attractive to land losers. However, this approach is likely to face legal hurdles.

Unlike the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), which has formally adopted TDR as a key component of its land acquisition, the BDA has not incorporated it into its legal framework. Moreover, the introduction of FAR-based compensation — without clear rules or regulations — also raises concerns about potential misuse.

Explaining the project details, the BDA said 1,810 acres of land were being acquired for the 73-km road with a 100-metre right of way (RoW). Of this, 65 metres will be used for the main carriageway, while the remaining 35 metres will be allotted as compensation sites to farmers.

"After accounting for interchanges, entry and exit ramps, and mandatory open spaces such as parks and civic amenity sites, only about 400 acres (22%) of the 1,810 acres will remain. This land will be entirely used to compensate farmers," it said in a statement.

In addition, the BDA has issued a preliminary notification to acquire another 600 acres for interchanges, cloverleaf junctions and integration with NICE Road at both ends of the project. "All of this additional land will be utilised for road infrastructure," it said.

The BDA clarified that a total of 2,410 acres is being acquired for the PRR, of which 400 acres (16.6%) are being earmarked exclusively as compensation for farmers. "Hence, the claim that the BDA is retaining 16% of the land is incorrect," it added.

Some farmers, however, were not satisfied with the reply, questioning the need for creating CA sites along the road while pointing out that the BDA is not taking up a residential layout project.

HC quashes departmental enquiry against retired sheristadar

BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court has quashed the departmental enquiry proceedings against a retired sheristadar finding that the article of charge was barred by the limitation period prescribed under the Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules.

The petitioner, N Hanumantha, contended that the departmental enquiry/proceeding was instituted by issuing the charge sheet on June 27, 2023, in respect of an event which took place in the year 2016.

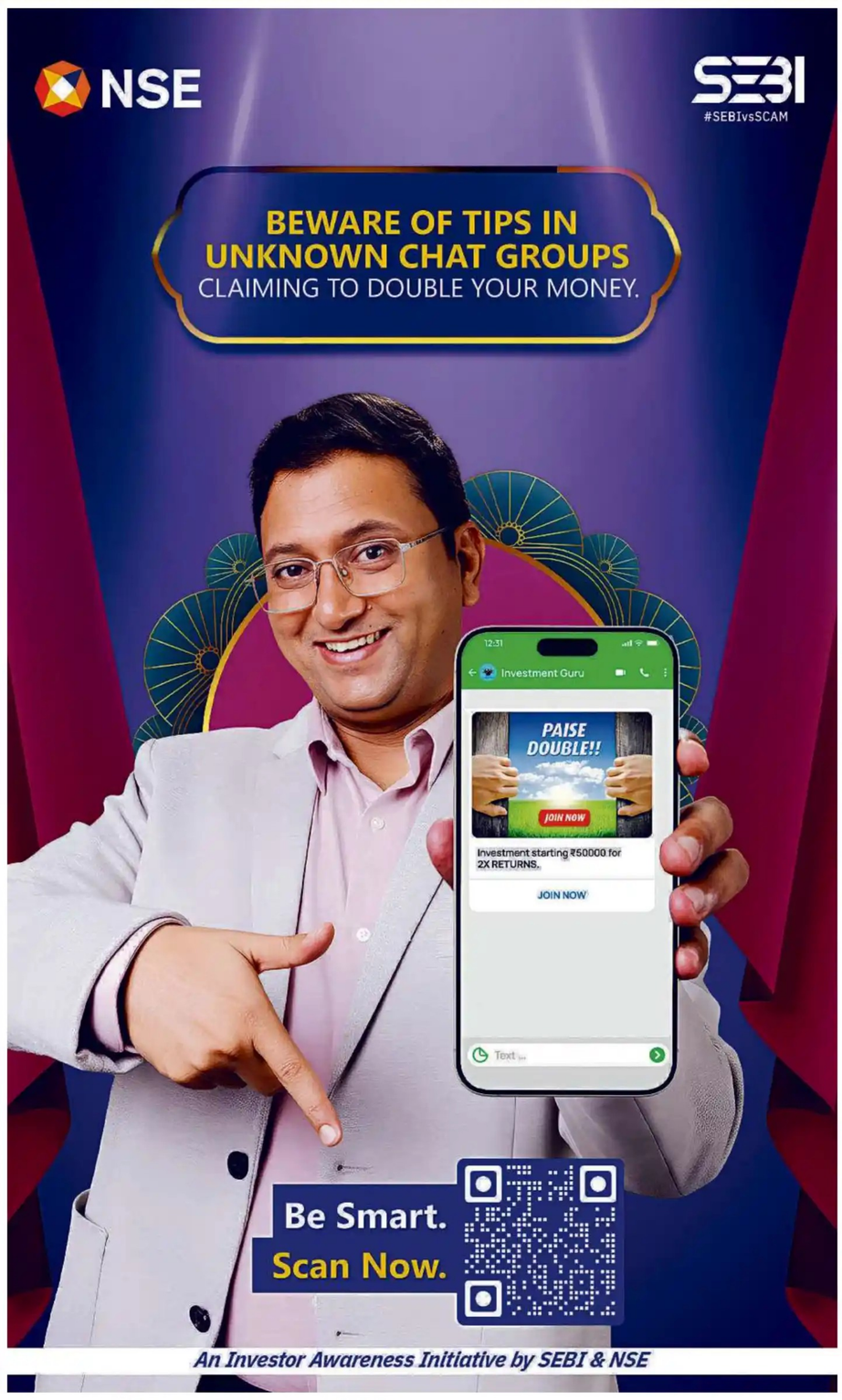
On May 22, 2020, the complaint was filed before the Lokayukta in connection with the proceedings of change of khata carried out in 2016. The complainant K M Shankar of Karadakere village in Maddur taluk of Mandya district alleged that one of his brothers, K M Nagesh had paid Rs 3.50 lakh to the Revenue Department officials to execute illegal khata transfer. The land (12-15 acres) stood in the name of the complainant's father who had seven sons and eight daughters.

Hanumantha, who served as sheristadar at the Deputy Commissioner's office, retired from service on July 31, 2022, while the Lokayukta issued articles of charge on June 27, 2023. Challenging the disciplinary proceedings, Hanumantha contended that charges could not have been issued in 2023 for an alleged event that took place in 2016.

On the other hand, the advocate appearing for the Lokayukta submitted that a partition suit was filed and a complaint was filed after the final decree was passed in the appeal. It was further submitted that the inquiry was conducted within a period of four years from the date of the incident.

After examining KCSR Rules 214(2)(b) on limitation and Rule-214(6)(a) on definition of institution of disciplinary proceedings, the division bench noted that the date of charge sheet in the present case, July 2023, is the date for institution of the departmental proceedings and not be the date of the complaint.

"In any view of the matter, it cannot be denied that the event occurred during the year 2016 and the institution of departmental proceedings by issuing the charge sheet is on June 27, 2023. Considering the extracted provisions of Rule 214 (2)(b) of the KCSRs, we are of the considered view that the departmental proceedings initiated against the petitioners are barred by limitation as prescribed under Rule 214(2)(b) and therefore, the departmental proceedings are incompetent and void. Thus, we set aside the departmental proceedings along with the charge sheet..," the bench said.



97% of rail lines electrified in Karnataka, says Somanna

BIRUR (CHIKKAMAGALURU DIST), DHNS: Electrification of railway lines in Karnataka has reached 97% completion and the goal is to achieve 100% by year end, said Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna.

Speaking to reporters after inspecting works at Birur station on Sunday, he said: "To ensure passenger safety, Railways is introducing advanced safety technology called Kavach. This prevents accidents of two trains running on same track by automatically applying brakes. It allows trains to stop automatically even if they are as close as 50 feet. Kavach will be installed on 1,700 km of tracks," he said.

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OBITUARY

I have fought the good fighting
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7

Mrs. SARAMMA GEORGE (93 years)
W/o. Late Mr. T. M. George
No.108, Thevercattil House, Anandnagar, Marathahalli Post, Bengaluru-560 037
Passed away on 01-11-2025
Funeral and Prayer 04-11-2025
Viewing at home: 10:00 am
Church Service: at 11:00 am
St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, Marathahalli
Burial Service at: Indian Christian Cemetery, Hosur Road, Gate No.1 at 12:30 pm

Deeply mourned by Family
Sons: George Mathew (Prakash) George Samuel (Prasad) Thomas George (Pradeep) Joseph George (Prince)
Daughter-in-law: Mrs. Sheela Mathew, Mrs. P. Jessy Samuel, Mrs. Anuja Thomas, Mrs. Bindu Joseph
Grand children: Sara Mathew, Rhea Mathew, Ann Sara Samuel, Ajay Thomas, Nikitha and Nigel
Grand son-in-laws
Monish Mathew, Anish Mathew.

Deal sweeter in M'rashtra for state's sugarcane farmers

'Deceived' by mills in weighing here, get better returns there

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS:

A large number of sugarcane farmers in the border areas of Karnataka are selling their produce to factories in Maharashtra for better prices, assured and timely payment as the district administrations have not resolved the row over fixing of cane rate even after the start of crushing operations.

Factories in the state are providing Rs 2,700 per tonne against up to Rs 3,400 offered in Maharashtra, excluding transportation and cutting costs.

There are nearly 80 sugar factories in the state and more than 75% are in Belagavi, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Bidar and Bagalkot districts. Therefore, farmers said sugar mills in the neighboring state (where there are around 200 factories) are approaching them.

Farmer leaders agree that the supply of sugarcane to Maharashtra will cause loss of tax revenue to the state government.

Maha's co-op sector

Karnataka Sugarcane Growers Association president Kurubur Shanthakumar said hgher price was offered in Maharashtra as sugar factories there are in the co-operative sector, unlike Karnataka, where mills are owned by politicians. He accused factories here of deceiving farmers in weighing the produce and on sugar recovery rate.

The devastating floods and heavy rainfall have destroyed crops including tur, cotton and green gram in Karnataka. However, farmers have managed to get a better yield of sugarcane as it is a water intensive crop. Therefore, they expect a better price for the cane produce to compensate for the loss suffered in other crops.

The central government has fixed fair and remunerative price (FRP) of Rs 3,550 per tonne for a basic recovery rate of 10.25% per quintal, including transportation and cutting costs. But farmers have launched protests in the region for higher price.

Owners of sugar mills in Karnataka say their counterparts in Maharashtra offer better rates to sugarcane farmers, owing to high sugar recovery rate of up to 13% in that state. They give the same price for cane produced in Karnataka, though recovery rate is less.

Kalaburagi district sugarcane growers' association president Jagannathrao Patil said middlemen from the neighboring state were buying the produce as farmers are finding it difficult to bear the costs of cutting and transportation in the absence of labourers.

"Sugar factories should provide Rs 3,500 per tonne excluding transportation and cutting costs. They have to settle bills within 15 days of cane procurement like in Maharashtra," Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangh Vijayapura district president S B Kembogi said.

Sugar recovery rate

South Indian sugar mills owners' association president Yogesh Patil said mills were offering higher price in Maharashtra owing to high recovery rate of up to 13%, thanks to factors like climatic conditions, fertile soil in Western Ghats and abundant water supply from reservoirs and barrages. They give the same price for cane produced in Karnataka and many factories engage in production of ethanol.

"The recovery rate from the cane produce is gradually reduced up to in the Krishna basin districts of Belagavi, Bagalkot and Vijayapura districts. This variation has existed in the last many decades and there will be difference of Rs 300 for every one percent of variation in recovery rate. The cane yield and recovery is more in Maharashtra as the crop duration there is 16 months against 9 months in Karnataka, where farmers undertake harvesting under panic due to water scarcity," he said.

Huge demand

Chunappa Pujeri, cane producer from Belagavi, estimates that 20 lakh metric tonnes of cane produced in the district is supplied to Maharashtra, though Belagavi district has 30 sugar factories. Farmer leaders said there was stiff competition in Maharashtra to buy cane from here, due to loss of crop following heavy rainfall and floods in that state.

K'taka mulls permanent water commission on lines of CWC

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar is planning to set up a permanent State Water Commission (SWC), whose tasks will include preparing a water security roadmap for the next 50 years.

Shivakumar, who is the water resources minister, has proposed the SWC on the lines of the Central Water Commission (CWC). Comprising experts, the SWC will not be confined to irrigation.

Under Shivakumar's proposal, the SWC will carry out a comprehensive analysis of the state's water requirement - for drinking, irrigation, industries and other purposes. It will be required to submit reports on the what the government should do to ensure water availability in cities, including Bengaluru, for the next 50 years.

The SWC will be required to review the irrigation pattern in the state and suggest measures towards water economy by using modern technologies.

Countries like Israel and Australia have piqued Shivakumar's interest in terms of water usage and micro irrigation techniques. Shivakumar wants the SWC to send teams to such countries and submit reports on what the state can emulate.

Climate crisis will be another area in which the SWC will work. Shivakumar said the proposed SWC will study weather patterns and suggest ways to increase capacity at dams and reservoirs to hold excess rainfall.

The SWC will also come up with immediate measures that the government should take during drought. Recommending new irrigation projects, development of water bodies and improving natural water resources will come under the SWC's purview.

DKS' book launch

Neerina Hejje, a monograph on the state's irrigation sector penned by Shivakumar, is set for launch on November 5.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will release his deputy's book at Vidhana Soudha.

The book is "a profound and insightful work detailing the history, challenges and future of water management in the state."

Former water resources ministers Basavaraj Bommai, M B Patil and H K Patil have been invited for Shivakumar's book launch.

Watery grave for four students in Mandya canal

SRIRANGAPATNA (MANDYA DIST), DHNS: The bodies of three students, who were washed away in the Ramaswamy canal near Mandyakoppalu in Mandya district on Saturday, were retrieved on Sunday. A girl who did not respond to treatment, died in the hospital.

The incident occurred on Saturday, when six students of Shanthinagar, Mysuru, had got into the canal, and were washed away. Locals had rescued three students, of whom one girl died.

A 15-member group, studying at the Madarasa in Shantinagar had come on a trip on Saturday. Six students went to Cauvery river to wash the vessels and clothes, when Mohammed Ghouse fell into the canal near the river. The others, got into the canal to rescue him and drowned, Arakere police said.

The bodies of Tabreen (13) and Afreen (13) were found at a distance of 20 kilometres, near Sosale, in T Narsipur taluk. The body of Ume Hani (14), was found one kilometre from the canal. Ayesha, who was rescued on Saturday, failed to respond to the treatment and died in a hospital in Mysuru. Albia and Mohammed Ghouse have been rescued, police said.

MLA Ramesh Bandisiddegowda, Deputy Commissioner Kumara, Additional SP Thimmaiah visited the spot on Sunday. Arakere Police Sub-Inspector Vinod Kumar said that caution boards have been installed near the river bank and canal. But, some neglect them and lose their lives, he said.

3 med students from state drown in Kannur beach

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/ HASSAN, DHNS: Three students from Al-ameen medical college in Mangaluru drowned at Payyambalam beach at Kannur in Kerala on Sunday.

They were part of a 11-member group from the college which came on a tour to Kannur.

Police identified the deceased as Afnan Ahmed, 26, from Holenarsipur in Hassan district, Mohammed Rehanuddin, 26, and Mohammed Afroza, 25, from Hiriyur in Chitradurga district.

Afnan is the son of D Tanveer Ahmed of Holenarsipur.

They drowned while taking bath on the beach in the noon. The fire and rescue service personnel, coastal police and local fishermen fished out the bodies.

It is believed that Afnan initially went missing on the beach.

Rehanuddin and Afroza drowned when they ventured to rescue Afnan.

The group reached Kannur on Sunday and were staying at a beach resort at Payyambalam. Eight of them had gone to the beach to take a bath.

JD(U) candidate held for murder...

Bihar, from Page 1

The first political killing of this election shook Bihar and rattled the EC, which suspended the SHO (Mokama), SDO and the SDPO, and transferred the Rural SP of Patna.

Having received reports that Anant's men were moving in cavalcade of 40 SUVs with his supporters displaying sophisticated arms openly in and around Mokama, the EC has asked the Patna DM and the SSP to ensure no rule of law was violated and heavy deployment of force was done in the trouble-torn area. "Any act of violence will not be tolerated. All voters will be able to cast their votes peacefully, freely and transparently. The Election Commission is fully prepared for this," said CEC Gyanesh Kumar on Sunday.

Soon after his arrest, a social media post by Anant Singh has gone viral wherein he has asked the voters of Mokama to ensure justice for him on the day of polling. Voting in Mokama is slated for November 6.

Anant is pitted against another Bahubali, Surajbhan Singh's wife Veena Devi of the RJD, while Piyush is representing the Jan Suraaj.

A senior NDA leader, unofficially, cited two reasons for Nitish's absence from the PM event in Patna.

"One is the health issue of Nitish, which is proving to be a huge embarrassment for everyone. Second, his decision to field controversial don-turned-politician Anant Singh has not gone down well with the top BJP leadership, which is attacking Mahagatbandhan for jungle raj," said the NDA leader.

Push for biodiesel as state...

Biodiesel, from Page 1

The price of biodiesel is expected to be at least Rs 5 per litre lower compared to normal diesel.

"If we are able to set up more pumps and augment resources, the price could drop further," Sudheendra added.

Many citizens had expressed concerns that use of biodiesel could damage the engines of vehicles and also result in reduced mileage. Addressing this, Bharath Subramaniam, advisor to the chairman of the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board said that only B100 biodiesel would be allowed to be sold at the pumps.

"B100 biodiesel has been tested and accepted internationally to be fit to run on automobiles. Hence, people can opt for it without any fear," he said.

Sources said that though there is a huge stock of biodiesel in the state, it is mostly sold off to oil companies which use them to blend it with normal diesel.

"Though they blend it and sell the blended variant, they do not pass on the cost benefit to consumers. Hence, it is important to break this mafia and let producers sell biodiesel directly to the consumers so that the public can benefit from this," said an industry insider.

Biodiesel is cleaner, causes less pollution and is cheaper. Use of biodiesel helps reduce the country's dependency on oil imports and hence the Union government has also been pushing for its use.

Karnataka was one of the first few states to adopt a bioenergy policy, in 2007-08, and this policy was referred to when the Union government published the National Bioenergy Policy in 2017.

DH Classifieds

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My client **Satish R Bhat S/O BARKUR RAMAKRISHNA BHAT,** one of the legal heirs to the scheduled property. Issuing the following Notice to General Public that the said property is NOT FOR SALE until mutually acceptable agreement among all the legal heirs.
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Kanchana.K.S, B.A.LL.B Advocate
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Glitchy RTO software triggers drop...

RTO, from Page 1

Many users said the software cannot be installed or crashes during face-authentication process.

Candidates who opt for Aadhaar-based face verification say AI tool fails to match their current appearance with Aadhaar photograph, locking them out of the system. Once the authentication fails, the test session closes automatically, forcing candidates to cancel application, lose paid fees and reapply through mobile verification route.

"It recognises my face briefly and then throws an error before closing window," said Shashank B of Hubballi. "I tried in multiple lighting conditions and backgrounds, but it just doesn't work. The RTO staff say it's a software issue & can't help," he said.

The software has created two opposite outcomes: one, it has curbed fraudulent activities, making it harder for middlemen to appear as proxy candidates; two, it has blocked thousands of genuine applicants from completing learner's licence tests.

Many candidates are now turning to driving schools or approaching local RTOs for help.

A senior RTO official said the SmartLock system is "central to transparency and legal defensibility", ensuring that every test is traceable and secure. "It is part of the ministry's broader shift towards digital governance. While we are aware of technical issues, this mechanism has strengthened data protection and eliminated impersonation," he said.

The department has recently asked RTOs to submit detailed reports regarding the technical and procedural challenges faced after SmartLock's rollout. "We have assessed the situation and submitted our feedback to higher authorities for review," the official added.

Speaking to *DH*, Additional Commissioner of Transport (e-Governance) Jnanendra Kumar said, "The software has effectively curbed fraudulent activities and is enabling only genuine applicants through Aadhaar or mobile authentication. Being AI-based, it requires proper setup and accurate steps for face verification. So far, no RTO has given negative feedback about it."

Uploading of work details...

Payment, from Page 1

"We will have end-to-end information as to how the work is progressing, who's responsible for it and so on," Finance Secretary (Budget & Resources) PC Jaffer said. "We want to bring in transparency and better monitoring," he said, adding that "human discretion will go".

Earlier, the finance department asked departments to ensure that a letter of approval (LoA) is provided before payment is done. "Because of this, we found various discrepancies. As per the KTPP Act, the LoA must be given to the lowest bidder. Instead, we found that multiple work orders had been issued," he said.

The Karnataka State Contractors Association (KSCA) has said the government will have to provide them six-month time to upload information. Contractors also fear having to pay up GST at the time of uploading work details. "The government clears our bills once in 2-3 years. We pay GST only when our bills come through. The government should have discussed this with us before issuing the order," a KSCA functionary said.

The finance department is working on another reform, which Jaffer said would save a lot of paper. "Right now, the entire physical set of vouchers has to go to the accountant-general. We're doing away with physical signatures to save lakhs of sheets that need printing. The advocate-general has said that digital signatures will be accepted," Jaffer said.

Couple dead, 2 injured...

Accident, from Page 1

The scooter riders — Ismail Nathan Dabapu (40) and his wife Sameena Banu (33) — were returning home to Someshwar Nagar via H Siddaiah Road at the time.

The initial collision threw them off their scooter, and the ambulance dragged them for nearly 50 metres.

The emergency vehicle then struck a second two-wheeler, a Honda Dio scooter ridden by Mohammad Ryan (29) with Mohammad Siddique (32) as the pillion rider. Both fell to the ground due to the force of the impact. The out-of-control ambulance came to a halt only after crashing into the traffic signal operator box on the pedestrian road.

Following the incident, an angry crowd pushed the ambulance and overturned it.

The couple suffered critical injuries and were rushed to Jayanagar General Hospital. Dabapu succumbed to his injuries around 11.45 pm while his wife, who had suffered severe head injuries, was pronounced dead an hour later.

Of the Honda Dio occupants, rider Ryan received treatment at a private hospital and was discharged, while Siddique remains hospitalised and is undergoing intensive care at a private medical facility.

The Wilson Garden traffic police have registered a case against the unidentified ambulance driver for multiple offences, including those relating to causing death by negligence rash and negligent driving and under sections of the Motor Vehicles Act.

A police report attributes the primary cause of the fatal accident to "speeding and carelessness on the part of the ambulance driver."

RED YELLOW RADIANCE

The Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru is bathed in the colours of the Kannada flag, a day after Karnataka Rajyotsaya on Sunday.

We wish to see DKS as CM in 2028: Zameer

KOPPAL, DHNS: Dismissing the November revolution talk, Housing and Waqf Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan said on Sunday that Siddaramaiah will remain CM for full term and let Shivakumar take over reins in 2028.

It is natural for Shivakumar to have such desire (to become CM) His supporters have the desire to see him as CM. We too wish that Shivakumar becomes CM after Siddaramaiah. For now, Siddaramaiah will remain as CM for this term, Zameer told reporters here.

On the speculation surrounding Cabinet reshuffle, Zameer said, "The Cabinet reshuffle may take place. If the high command asks me to quit, I will abide by and work as a disciplined soldier for the party organisation."

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Northeast monsoon was weak over the state. Rainfall occurred at one or two places over state.
Forecast Nov 3: Partly cloudy sky .Light rain likely.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	26.2	19.8	0.3
Bidar	28.8	21.0	0.0
Vijayapura	30.5	22.5	0.0
Dharwad	29.0	20.6	0.0
Haveri	29.2	21.6	0.0
Kalaburagi	32.6	23.2	0.0
Raichur	31.6	23.0	0.0
COASTAL			
Honnavar	31.4	22.7	0.0
Karwar	31.2	24.1	2.9
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	30.0	24.0	0.0

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	28.2	21.3	0.5
Bengaluru	30.1	19.1	0.0
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	--	--	--
Chikkamagaluru	--	--	--
Chitradurga	32.4	20.1	0.0
Davangere	32.0	20.5	0.0
Hassan	33.1	NA	0.0
Mysuru	32.0	16.8	0.0
Madikeri	--	--	--
Kolar	30.4	17.8	0.0
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	31.0	17.0	NIL
Kolkata	30.0	22.0	NIL
Mumbai	30.0	27.0	NA
Chennai	32.0	27.0	NA
Pune	29.0	22.0	NA
Hyderabad	29.0	23.0	NA
Th'puram	32.0	24.0	NIL

Centre asks Ladakh leaders to submit fresh draft of demands

Joint document may include key issues like statehood, constitutional safeguards

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Taking a step forward in its dialogue with representatives from Ladakh, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has sought a fresh and detailed draft of demands from the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) before the next round of talks in New Delhi.

LAB co-chairman Chering Dorjay Lakruk confirmed that the body met in Leh on Saturday to deliberate on the contents of the new draft, which is expected to reflect the LAB and the KDA's joint stand.

"The LAB is working on the draft. It held a meeting in Leh today to discuss and finalise its points. Thereafter, it will seek inputs from the KDA. Later, the organisations will sit and prepare the document with consensus," Lakruk said.

He added that the document, once finalised, would be a joint draft representing the collective voice of Ladakh's two main representative platforms.

Though Lakruk declined to share the specifics of the draft, sources indicated that it would comprehensively detail the key demands the two groups have been projecting since Ladakh was carved out as a Union Territory in 2019.

These include statehood for Ladakh, constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule, a separate Public Service Commission, and greater local representation in governance.

The MHA's move to seek a detailed draft came amid renewed tensions in Ladakh following the September 24 violence in Leh, when a protest march by statehood supporters turned violent, leaving four dead and dozens injured and deepening mistrust between local groups and the administration.

The incident highlighted the growing frustration among residents who feel Ladakh's political and ecological concerns remain unaddressed more than six years after its separation from J&K.

Leaders from both Leh and Kargil have repeatedly stressed that Ladakh's unique identity, fragile environment, and employment rights were at risk without constitutional and legislative safeguards.

The upcoming round of talks, likely to be held later this month in New Delhi, is expected to test whether the Central government is willing to concede ground on key issues or propose a middle path, such as limited autonomy or a tailored set of protections outside the Sixth Schedule framework.

NIA gives the go-ahead for cable car project in Pahalgam

NEW DELHI, PTI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has given its nod to the Jammu and Kashmir government for a cable car project in Baisaran in the tourist resort of Pahalgam, the site of the April 22 terror attack, officials said on Sunday.

The J&K government had sought approval from the NIA, which is probing the attack. NIA officials said the agency was approached for its views on the project by the Union Territory administration.

"We were asked about our views (about starting the cable car project) and we conveyed that we do not have any objection from the investigation angle," an official said.

On October 27, in response to an unstarred question by Pahalgam MLA Altaf Ahmad Wani in the J&K Assembly, the government said the project work has been allotted to a company, but it has not begun "in view of the post-Pahalgam scenario".

The alignment for the 1.4-km project has been identified by the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation (JKCCC).

"The lower terminal point is located near the Yatri Niwas in Pahalgam, and the upper terminal point is located in Baisaran. The total length of the project would be 1.4 km. The... 9.13 hectares (land required) for the project belong to the forest department," CM Omar Abdullah, who holds the tourism portfolio, said in a written reply.

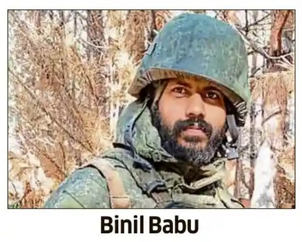
No trace of Kerala man killed in Russia even after 10 months

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

It has been 10 months since 32-year-old Binil Babu from Thrissur in Kerala was reported killed in the Russia-Ukraine warzone while working for the Russian side. Yet, his family remains in dark about his fate.

Initially informed that Babu had been killed, the family later received conflicting information that he was "missing". The uncertainty has left the family not only emotionally shattered but also facing practical hardships.

Babu was reportedly killed on January 5. His relative Jain Kurian, who was seriously injured, but managed to return to India in April.


Binil Babu

Babu and Kurian had travelled to Russia in April 2024, lured by a recruiting agent who promised visas and lucrative jobs. However, they were forced to join the Russian mercenary troops and participate in the war without any training. Kurian said he had seen Babu's body in the warzone.

Indian embassy officials in Russia earlier informed the family that Babu was dead and requested DNA samples from his father to confirm the identification. The samples were sent in July. However, the embassy officials later told the family that Russian authorities had listed Babu as "missing."

The uncertainty has also affected daily life for Babu's wife, Joicy. When she recently tried to correct the spelling of their one-year-old son Jaick's name in official documents, she was asked to produce her husband's death certificate, which she does not have.

Kurian, who was in a mental trauma after returning from Russia, has since recovered and is now working at an automobile workshop.

Ilaiyaraaja to launch all-girls orchestra in honour of his daughter

CHENNAI, DHNS: Legendary music composer Ilaiyaraaja has announced the launch of an all-girls orchestra in memory of his daughter and accomplished playback singer Bhavatharini, who passed away in January 2024 at the age of 47.

In a social media post, Ilaiyaraja asked aspiring vocalists and musicians to apply to be part of the Bhavatha Girls Orchestra. "A harmony of voices and instruments in tribute to my daughter Bhavatharini," the music composer said.

Bhavatharini, who was a national award-winning playback singer known for her soulful voice, passed away at the age of 47 on January 25, losing a protracted battle with cancer.

Ilaiyaraaja

Making her debut in Prabhu Deva-starrer Rasaiah in 1995, through a peppy 'masthana masthana' song, Bhavatharini went on to sing hundreds of songs for which music was composed by her father Ilaiyaraaja and brothers Karthik Raja and Yuvan Shankar Raja.

From 'ennai thaalaata varuvaala' in 'Kadhalukku Mariyathai' to the soul-stirring 'oliyile therivathu' in 'Azhagi', Bhavatharini went on to win accolades for her singing that blended emotions with her peculiar voice.

She was presented with the national award for 'mayil pola ponnu onu' in 'Bharathi', the biopic of celebrated Tamil poet Subramania Bharathi, in 2001, besides winning several state and other film awards. In 2002, she wore the hat of a music director by scoring music for 'Mitr, My Friend' and for movies like 'Phir Milenge' (Hindi).

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

MR. B., DO YOU WANT TO WATCH ME KICK AROUND MY NEW SOCCER BALL?
I'D LOVE TO, ELMO
OH, THAT'S GREAT, MR. B.!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE THE MAIN ATTRACTION AT A SPORTING EVENT
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN, ELMO

Hagar The Horrible

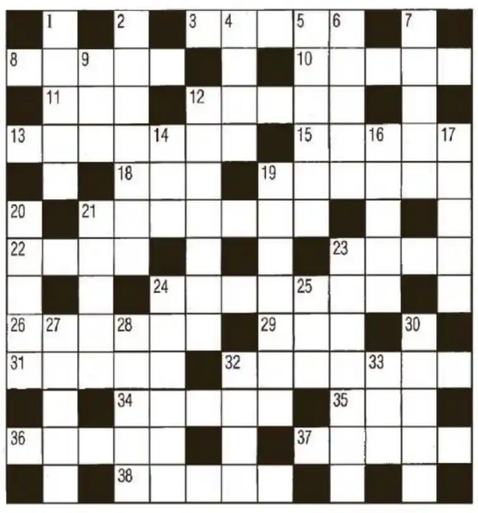
HONI, I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND WHEN I GIVE YOU ADVICE!
NOT AT ALL!
BUT I DO WONDER WHERE YOU LEARNED ALL THE THINGS YOU TELL ME NOT TO DO!
WHAT THINGS?

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12279



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
3 View that makes sense? (5)
8 His partner makes him motherless! (5)
10 Actually too young to be a fat lady (5)
11 Be slow, so fail to finish a lager (3)
12 As you listen, I sing something sweet (5)
13 Mother's wise to get a bit of physiotherapy (7)
15 Wait for a new deal and a happy ending (5)
18 Heating element? (3)
19 Mistakes a deserter will make in time (6)
21 A warrior's outfit (7)
22 Nobleman with a squint? (4)
23 Was aware of what wasn't woven (4)
24 Hopelessness of a chap getting two ducks (7)
26 A sheep is a Dumas character (6)
29 Quiet, egg-headed female (3)
31 Parts with a wayward loser (5)
32 Break the law on the fourth of July? That's rich! (7)
34 With a bit of luck, I'd get clear (5)
35 Welsh dairyman? (3)
36 They can also be played back (5)
37 Goddess of unnamed cereals (5)
38 A horse's refusal, we hear (5)

DOWN
1 Foreigner mum has to provide eggs for! (5)
2 Follows Jack with a night-light! (7)
4 Nice change for a footballer (4)
5 A leading Scottish potter (6)
6 Striped rag? (5)
7 Do a spiteful female out of a male (5)
9 A good bit of cash to burn! (3)
12 Passes over wild regions (7)
14 Scots own what the captain can do without (3)
16 May be drunk right after a wild gale (5)
17 A nice place to lay up, thanks (5)
19 Possibly pleased to have passed (7)
20 It differs from the distaff (5)
21 On the organ, it makes a note ring out! (5)
23 He's maybe hoping to catch you out (7)
24 The ignoring of many a confused issue (6)
25 Cry of the sea-hawk (3)
27 He shows no concern when his right boot needs mending (5)
28 Does it taste like lemon squash? (5)
30 The type to take things badly (5)
32 To fly to the West Indies is no good, it seems! (4)
33 Say thanks for the salt (3)

ACROSS

3 Martial art (5)
8 Distinguished (5)
10 Water jugs (5)
11 Lettuce (3)
12 Wall painting (5)
13 Japanese warrior (7)
15 Allude (5)
18 Floor covering (3)
19 Acclimatise (6)
21 Enchant (7)
22 Unfortunately (4)
23 Close (4)
24 Envious (7)
26 Wide street (6)
29 Help (3)
31 Italian city (5)
32 Civilian fighting force (7)
34 Musical note (5)
35 Call for help (1,1,1)
36 Brief film appearance (5)
37 Razor sharpener (5)
38 Male duck (5)

DOWN

1 Provincial (5)
2 Begins again (7)
4 Needlecase (4)
5 Scarcity (6)
6 Young owl (5)
7 Colour (5)
9 Male cat (3)
12 Afternoon show (7)
14 Uncooked (3)
16 Vapours (5)
17 Give a new trial to (5)
19 Praise (7)
20 Woman (5)
21 Ring-shaped roll (5)
23 Naturists (7)
24 Younger (6)
25 Lubricate (3)
27 Essential (5)
28 Called (5)
30 Buffalo (5)
32 Dairy product (4)
33 Hill (3)

SOLUTIONS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2652

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1 Hostage, 5 Current, 9 Arrange, 10 Algebra, 11 Emery, 12 To a degree, 13 Out-and-out, 15 Showy, 16 Paste, 18 Far afield, 21 Ownership, 24 Hyena, 25 Erosion, 26 Obviate, 27 Defence, 28 Lenient.

DOWN: 1 Heave to, 2 Surfeit, 3 Annoyance, 4 Exert, 5 Character, 6 Rogue, 7 Embargo, 8 Tragedy, 14 Off chance, 15 Safe haven, 16 Proceed, 17 Send-off, 19 Elevate, 20 Dialect, 22 Reign, 23 Prowl.

◆SU-DO-KU-6741◆

9	1	4				2		
	5		2					
2		6			8	3		
7				1			4	9
		3		7		6		
4	6			8				1
		2	1			5		7
					3		2	
		7				1	9	3

easy

SOLUTION TO 6740

1	2	3	5	6	4	8	7	9
9	5	4	7	2	8	3	1	6
7	8	6	9	3	1	4	5	2
3	4	7	1	5	9	2	6	8
2	9	8	6	7	3	5	4	1
6	1	5	8	4	2	9	3	7
5	6	2	3	8	7	1	9	4
8	7	9	4	1	5	6	2	3
4	3	1	2	9	6	7	8	5

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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L1 S1 P3 S1 M3 E1 A1	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
G2 V4 I1 E1 E1 G2 E1	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
E1 E1 E1 W4 D2 T1 Y4	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
A1 E1 H4 S1 R1 G2 C3	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 160-170
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

A1 N1 A1 R1 C3 H4	RACK 1 =	22
S1 H4 E1 R1 B3 E1 T1	RACK 2 =	62
O1 D2 O1 U1 R1	RACK 3 =	6
V4 E1 N1 U1 L1 E1	RACK 4 =	27
PAR SCORE 80-90	JUDD'S TOTAL	117

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

URFTI

OFTOA

URBNAU

FSDEEU

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

I can't believe I get to see so many quads in one place!
Such powerful animals!
4/24
THE ZOOLOGIST SPECIALIZED IN QUADRUPEDS CONSIDERING THEM A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" " (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FINCH INEPT WISDOM FELLOW
Answer: When the driver offered to pay his speeding ticket on the spot, the officer said — FINE WITH ME

HITORI-3195

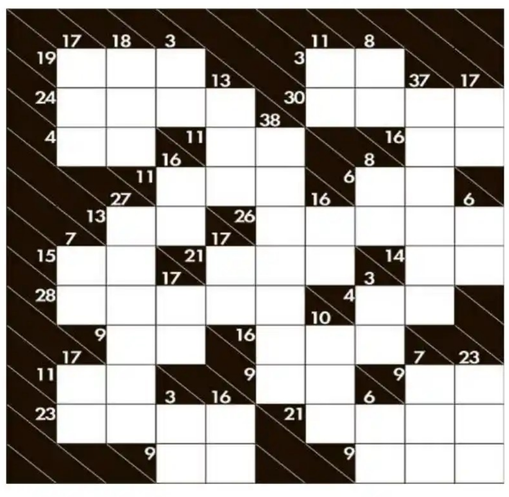
4	4	6	7	5	8	8	8
1	7	1	3	1	8	4	2
4	5	1	2	8	4	7	4
5	4	4	1	4	7	6	1
8	4	2	4	1	8	3	6
1	6	4	8	3	4	2	5
7	2	5	4	8	3	5	1
6	1	3	4	4	1	5	6

SOLUTION TO 3194

2	■	4	■	6	8	■	7
7	4	1	2	■	6	3	5
■	5	6	■	1	3	■	8
3	1	■	4	■	2	7	■
■	2	3	1	5	■	8	6
8	6	■	3	■	1	■	4
4	■	2	6	7	5	1	3
6	3	7	■	4	■	2	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3195



SOLUTION TO 3194

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3724

■						9	3	
	■					5	■	
		■	1			■		
			■		■	2		3
			4	1				5
	9	1	8		■	6		
		■		2		■		7
	■	9		5			8	
	4					3	5	■

SOLUTION TO 3723

7	9	5	3	8	6	1	2	4
4	2	1	9	7	5	6	3	8
6	3	8	2	4	1	5	7	9
9	6	4	5	1	2	7	8	3
8	1	3	6	9	7	4	5	2
2	5	7	8	3	4	9	6	1
5	4	6	1	2	8	3	9	7
3	7	2	4	6	9	8	1	5
1	8	9	7	5	3	2	4	6

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Trump revives G2, Xi wins long game

Last week's historic meeting in Busan, South Korea, between the US and Chinese presidents, Donald Trump and Xi Jinping, is a disruptive game-changer that will gradually reset the global order. That is not because Trump called the meeting a G2 Summit, but because the US did not call itself the Pacific power. After his meeting with China's Minister of National Defence Admiral Dong Jun, US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said: "I highlighted the importance of maintaining a balance of power (with China) in the Indo-Pacific." Never before has the US used the term "balance of power". The G2 idea was floated early in Obama's term. Yet he, along with the short-lived British Premier David Cameron, had vowed that the US and the UK would remain superpowers, emphasising that there was no room for other poles of power. The US has climbed down a lot since then in its dealings with China. In fact, China has walked away as the winner.

Despite Trump's spin on the meeting, the outcome is, at best, a one-year truce in the trade war: China agreed to allow rare earth exports for a year and the US halved the duties on Chinese imports, with the tariff rate now averaging 45%. The general relief over making China yield on this score only shows how integral minerals are to trade diplomacy today, and how effectively China has leveraged—over decades—its dominance in the sector. The truce also marks the start of a new cold war, with Trump ordering the Pentagon to resume testing of nuclear weapons after a gap of 33 years, a move apparently aimed at China and Russia. For his part, even as he sought to win over other nations at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit, Xi warned them against joining the US to reduce the world's reliance on Chinese supply chains.

The world order is changing, with the US conceding a bigger role for China

The outcome of the Trump-Xi meeting, among other things, reflects the divergent strategies adopted by the big two—Trump pushing long-time partners into new collaborations on the side, while China looks set to reap the dividends of a long game played well. Trump seeking Xi's help to end the war in Ukraine effectively subordinates Europe to both Washington and Beijing. The pause in geopolitical uncertainty provides relief for the US-led West and China, but does not bode well for India. On the face of it, China-US pacts, especially when Pakistan is playing both, can increase New Delhi's unease. More consequential is that it could spell the end of the Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) comprising the US, Japan, India and Australia, and cut short the US 'pivot' to Asia, where India saw a big role for itself.

Playing dirty won't solve trash problem

Bengaluru's so-called 'Kasa Surisuva Habba', or garbage-dumping festival, has stirred a storm of reactions, exposing the deep-rooted complexities of the city's waste management conundrum. The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) claims that the initiative, which involves returning waste to the doorsteps of habitual offenders, targets only those who persistently dump garbage in public spaces. But what was meant as a stern wake-up call has instead become a spectacle of retributive justice. Dumping garbage outside people's homes, even if it is symbolic, reflects civic failure more than public indiscipline.

Undeniably, citizens share part of the blame. Civic apathy runs deep in Bengaluru. Residents who casually throw waste onto the roads, believing it is someone else's job to clean it up, expose a deep moral deficit in urban living. However, this failing does not absolve the authorities of their basic responsibilities. Before preaching discipline, BSWML and its parent body, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), must first set their house in order. The agency collects a hefty solid waste management (SWM) tax each year, but its service remains inadequate and inconsistent. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's reference to a "garbage mafia" operating within the system is telling. If entrenched corruption and inefficiency are feeding the problem, symbolic campaigns like this mean little. Public shaming may serve as a short-term deterrent and help create awareness, but Bengaluru desperately needs a functional waste management ecosystem that works with clockwork efficiency.

Shaming errant citizens is all fine, but the authorities should first clean up their act

The lack of dustbins in public spaces has worsened the problem. The decision to remove them, ostensibly to avoid blackspots and encourage segregation at home, has backfired. This policy ignores the practical realities of a bustling metropolis. It is plausible that IT employees working night shifts are often asleep during the narrow windows when garbage collection vans make their rounds. With no bins in sight, they are left with little choice but to dump waste on the roadside. Residents across the city also complain that collectors skip lanes, and sometimes do not turn up for days. Instead of resorting to punitive theatrics, GBA must study these ground realities. A door-to-door survey in affected areas would reveal whether the problem lies in timing, human resources, logistics, or pure citizen indifference. Enforcement should be fair, not reactive. Bengaluru's waste crisis is not about filth on the roads; it is about filth in attitudes—both civic and administrative. The path to a cleaner city requires a dual contract of accountability—from the government that must deliver quality services, and from citizens who must responsibly manage the waste they generate.

LABOUR AND LIVELIHOOD DIVIDES

How India really spends its working hours

Time-use data on paid employment paints a picture of a fragmented labour market where demographic divisions run deep

PALASH BARUAH AND D L WANKHAR

India's vast and diverse economy is driven by the time and toil of millions. But beyond headline figures like GDP and employment rates lies a deeper, more complex story, one told by how people actually spend their working hours. Recent data from the Time Use Survey provides critical insight and uncovers stark inequalities across gender, age, location, and types of employment.

■ Agriculture and allied work: A heavier load on women and rural India

Nearly half (46.4%) of all self-employed work time is spent in the primary sector (agriculture, etc.). This figure is significantly higher for women (61.4%) compared to men (42.8%), and women also contribute heavily to primary sector work among casual labourers.

The disparity is geographic as well, self-employed individuals in rural India dedicate 61.4% of their time to the primary sector, which plummets to just 6.7% in urban areas, highlighting a stark rural-urban divide in the nature of work.

■ Secondary sector: Casual labourers keep the wheels turning

In contrast, the secondary sector, which includes manufacturing, construction, and mining, employs 12.3% of self-employed workers' time and 12.8% of regular salaried employees.

However, it is casual labourers who dominate here, with over 47% of their work time spent in this sector. Male casual labourers, in particular, devote 54.5% of their time to secondary work, indicating their vital, yet vulnerable, role in India's industrial and construction backbone.

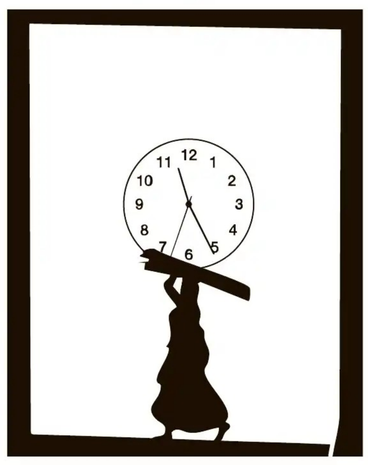
The sector's reliance on casual labour also underscores systemic issues like the lack of job security, absence of benefits, and minimal labour protections. Urban self-employed individuals are more likely to participate in this sector than their rural counterparts, reflecting a persistent urban-rural imbalance in industrial employment opportunities.

■ Tertiary sector: A modern economy still out of reach for many

At 83.5%, the services sector, which includes activities like trade, transport, and professional services, is where most of India's regular salaried workforce spends its work time.

The time spent rises to 88.3% for salaried women, compared to 82.3% for men. However, access to the service sector remains largely urban. Among self-employed urban workers, 73.3% of their time is spent in services related work, while only 28.1% of rural self-employed workers' time is spent in similar activities.

These numbers suggest that the modern service-driven economy is mostly urban centric, further entrenching regional inequalities.



■ Rural vs urban workdays: A tale of dichotomy

India's rural and urban labour landscapes are strikingly different. Among the self-employed, rural individuals devote a majority of their work time (61.4%) to the primary sector, indicating a strong focus on agriculture and related activities.

In contrast, urban self-employed workers primarily operate in the tertiary sector, spending 73.3% of their time on services, trade, and informal businesses. The secondary sector plays a moderate role (18.9%) in urban areas but remains marginal in rural settings (9.8%).

For regular salaried workers, the majority of work time in both rural and urban areas is concentrated in the tertiary sector - 79.3% (rural) and 86.3% (urban areas) - highlighting a predominant reliance on service-based employment.

The primary sector accounts for only a small portion of salaried work time in both rural and urban areas, while the secondary sector makes up 14.2% of work time in rural and 11.8% in urban areas.

Casual labourers in rural areas divide most of their time between the primary sector (40.8%) and the secondary sector (44.6%), reflecting dependence on both sectors. In urban areas, casual workers spend a larger share of their time (57.1%) in the secondary sector, while 32.3% of their time is spent in tertiary sector jobs.

Thus, the distribution of work time reveals a clear occupational divide between rural and urban areas, underscoring the differing economic structures and employment opportunities that shape the nature of work.

■ Age and labour: Shifting burdens through the life cycle

Work patterns also vary markedly by age. The core working-age population (23–50 years) spends 84.2% of its regular salaried time in the services sector, a trend echoed among youth aged 15–22 (78.3%).

In contrast, older workers (51 years and above) have shifted back to the primary sector, especially in self-employment, spending 57.9% of their time there, peaking at 63.3% for those aged 65 and above. This return to primary work in later life reflects the limited coverage of pensions and continued reliance on informal or subsistence labour.

Rethinking employment through a time lens

Time-use data on paid employment in India reveals that the national workforce is operating under vastly different economic conditions across various sectors. It paints a picture of a fragmented labour market where demographic divisions run deep.

The most immediate and striking observation is the prevalence of the tertiary sector, which consumes the largest share of time for the overall population's paid work, but it is overwhelmingly dominated by urban population.

Furthermore, the overall greater reliance on self-employed and casual labour of women and older age groups on primary sector activities points to a broader structural issue of informalisation and a lack of job security, demanding urgent policy attention for inclusive and equitable economic development.

(Palash is Fellow at the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi; Wankhar is a retired government officer)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Fading flavours on the fast lane

In our quest for efficiency, we have lost the essence of the journey

K CHIDANAND KUMAR

Once upon a not-so-distant time, the journey from Bengaluru to Mysuru was less about the destination and more about the detours. It was a ritual, a culinary pilgrimage, and a cultural slide show rolled into one. But now, with the gleaming Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway slicing through the landscape like a corporate email on a Sunday, we all seem to be zooming toward Mysuru with such speed and efficiency that the countryside has become little more than a blur on our windscreens – and perhaps in our memories.

Gone are the days when we left Bengaluru not just to reach Mysuru, but to experience the in-between. The first pit stop, always at Kengeri, was less of a necessity and more of a tradition – a chance to stretch your legs and sip a bottle of neon-coloured aerated delight while your uncle debated fuel prices with a stranger.

Next up: Bidadi. The home of the humble *thatte idli*. Fluffy, flat, and often larger than your face, it was accompanied by *chutney* so good, it made you question your life choices. You didn't pass Bidadi. You respected it.

Then, with *idli*-filled bellies and high hopes, you'd cruise toward Channapatna – the toy town where wooden wonders in cheerful colours lured both wide-eyed children and sentimental adults. Buying a spinning top or a wooden elephant wasn't just shopping; it was supporting an art form and possibly bribing your own child for 10 more minutes of peace.

And just as your digestion settled, Maddur rolled in like a savoury siren call. The Maddur *vada*, crisp outside and soft within, was the perfect midway miracle. No one knows what secret spell binds onion, flour, and oil into that addictive disc, but one thing's certain: no road trip was complete without it.

By the time you reached Mandya, the sugar capital, it was time for a sugarcane juice break. Served in sticky glasses with a dash of lime and a dash more nostalgia, it was the ultimate refresher for tired travellers and tired relationships alike.

Near journey's end, Srirangapatna beckoned. Lord Ranganatha awaited – graciously patient with sweaty, hurried devotees who paused to offer a quick prayer before the final leg. And finally, Mysuru! The city of palaces, silk, and that glorious, golden block of indulgence – *Mysorepak*. Melt-in-the-mouth, and totally worth it.

Now, we whiz past all of this in a blur, doing 120 kmph in air-conditioned silence, stopping only for automated tolls and coffee from machines that don't judge. There's no *Thatte Idli* traffic jam. No rogue cow causing a halt. No aunt declaring, "Let's just quickly check out this temple." There's only efficiency, and in that, we've lost the essence.

The new expressway has brought speed, yes. But it's also brought an unsettling quiet to the countryside. The roads may be smooth, but the journey? A little too frictionless.

Maybe, just maybe, we need to slow down. Take that detour. Pull over for a vada. Let the countryside catch up with us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

National discourse must rest on documented truth

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim that 'Nehru didn't let Sardar Patel unite Kashmir' (Nov 1) is historically unfounded and deeply misleading. The integration of Jammu & Kashmir in October 1947 followed Pakistan's tribal invasion, which necessitated a swift military and diplomatic response. Archival evidence shows that Patel was part of the Defence Committee, which approved the dispatch of Indian troops and endorsed Kashmir's Instrument of Accession. Patel publicly defended India's position on Kashmir in the Constituent Assembly, never suggesting that Nehru had obstructed him. Their differences were tactical, not over the goal of integration. There is no evidence that Nehru "blocked" Patel from uniting Kashmir. By recasting the Independence era through a partisan lens, Modi's statements attempt to appropriate icons like Patel and Bose into the BJP's ideological lineage and reshape public memory of the founding era in line with Hindutva narratives. Our national discourse must rest on documented truth, not convenient reinterpretations.

K V Chandramouli, Mysuru

Funds and fairness

The recent Himachal Pradesh High Court judgment declaring that diverting temple funds to government welfare schemes is impermissible (Between faith and welfare: The temple fund, Nov 2) is expected to have a cascading effect in other states as well. Whether temple funds should be used for welfare purposes is a larger question that needs debate. For instance, Hindu-run schools are required by law to reserve a certain percentage of seats for students from minority communities, while such stipulations do not apply to institutions run by other religious groups. This creates an invidious distinction that must be addressed to ensure a level playing field. It is time these distortions were corrected in the interest of fairness and equality.

H R Bapu Satyanarayana, Mysuru

Karnatic music sidelined

The State government has announced the Kannada Rajyotsava awards for this year, and the chief minister has reiterated that there was no political pressure and that the selection committee was given full autonomy. However, it is disappointing that Karnatic music has once again been sidelined, despite the presence of many deserving artistes. In recent years, Karnatic music has been neglected in several areas. The All India Radio channel *Amritavarshini* has not been functional, and AIR-graded artistes are not being called for recordings, allegedly due to insufficient funds. Since traditional arts have shifted from *Rajaashraya* (royal patronage) to *Prajaashraya* (people's support), it is incumbent upon governments to extend maximum encouragement to classical art forms to ensure their continuity and growth.

S Shashidhar, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

I will do in 20 months what NDA could not do in 20 years... My fight is against poverty and unemployment, migration and inflation, crime and corruption...

Tejashwi Yadav, RJD leader

If you wish to be a success in the world, promise everything, deliver nothing.

Napoleon Bonaparte

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Trade to progress: Still a rough path

The loudest alarm at UNCTAD 16 in Geneva was the debt crisis engulfing developing nations

D JEEVAN KUMAR

When the 16th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 16) met in Geneva from October 20-23, the mood was one of urgency. Sixty years after its founding in 1964, the world's premier body linking trade with development found itself confronting a new paradox: trade is expanding, yet development gains are narrowing. The conference theme — 'Shaping the Future: Driving Economic Transformation for Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Development' — was both an aspiration and a warning.

The loudest alarm in Geneva was about debt. Developing nations, especially the least developed and small island states, are trapped in a vicious cycle of borrowing to service old loans while sacrificing investments in people. UNCTAD's Secretary-General warned that "many countries now face a tragic choice between paying debts and educating their children". Global public debt has climbed past $102 trillion, with developing countries shouldering roughly a third. Interest payments alone exceed $900 billion annually — more than many countries' combined health and education budgets.

In response, UNCTAD 16 launched the Seville Forum on Debt, a platform to bring creditors, borrowers and financial institutions together to design fairer debt solutions. The initiative, led by Spain, was hailed as one of the few concrete outcomes of the conference. It represents an attempt to shift the conversation from debt relief to debt justice — linking repayment frameworks to Sustainable Development Goals.

UNCTAD's traditional mandate has been to make trade a lever for development rather than an end in itself. Yet, global trade today is fragmented along geopolitical lines. Tariff uncertainty, technological decoupling and supply-chain realignments threaten to leave developing economies stranded. The UNCTAD 16 discussions repeatedly highlighted the precarious position of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Global South, whose access to investment and technology is shrinking.

Digital divides were another major concern. The conference warned that fewer than one-third of developing countries possess national strategies to harness artificial intelligence and data economies. "Digital divides are deepening into digital canyons," said one delegate. Without infrastructure, skills or data governance frameworks, developing economies risk remaining mere consumers of digital products rather than creators of value.

Beneath the statistics lies a deeper malaise: the erosion of faith in multilateralism. From debt restructuring to trade governance, the existing global economic architecture — designed decades ago — no longer reflects contemporary realities. Developing countries have limited say in setting rules that directly affect them.

Despite these limitations, UNCTAD retains a unique legitimacy. It is still the only global forum that explicitly places development — not just liberalisation — at the centre of trade policy. Its research on productive capacities, digital readiness and investment in sustainable infrastructure provides developing countries with analytical tools to craft inclusive strategies. Civil society groups, including feminist and labour organisations, also used the Geneva session to call for people-centred trade that recognises unpaid care work, gender inequality and environmental limits.

For countries like India and states like Karnataka that aspire to deepen global linkages, UNCTAD's agenda offers valuable lessons. The organisation's emphasis on building domestic productive capacities — rather than relying solely on export markets — aligns with initiatives such as Make in India, Digital India and local skill-building programmes. It underlines that trade policy must serve structural transformation, not perpetuate dependency.

Yet the credibility of UNCTAD will depend on whether it can move from ideas to impact. Its conferences have often produced eloquent declarations that fade without follow-through. Implementation gaps persist because of limited resources, weak monitoring and a lack of coordination with national policies.

A reinvigorated UNCTAD must therefore embrace a few strategic shifts. First, it should strengthen implementation support — helping member countries design debt-management, digital-readiness and investment-promotion frameworks that align with national priorities. Second, it must widen its tent to include sub-national actors — provinces, states and city governments — where trade and investment translate into tangible livelihoods. Finally, the organisation must cultivate new coalitions that blend governments, academia, civil society and the private sector to make global trade more accountable and human-centred.

UNCTAD 16 was not merely another diplomatic gathering. It was a moment of reckoning for an institution born from the optimism of the post-colonial era, now operating in a world marked by inequality, debt and digital disruption. Its challenge is formidable: to remain relevant in a fractured multilateral order and to prove that trade can still be a pathway to justice, not exploitation.

If Geneva 2025 is to be remembered for more than speeches, the coming months must see real commitments — on debt sustainability, digital inclusion and fairer global finance.

(The writer is an Hon Professor at Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag; Adjunct Professor at Kristu Jayanti University, Bengaluru; and Visiting Professor at St Claret College, Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh)

India's democracy is losing in Bihar, and beyond

DEBASISH ROY CHOWDHURY

A strange disconnect between Bihar and Karnataka spells bad news for the state of India's democracy, such as it is.

The Congress party is ramping up the campaign in Bihar elections, while Karnataka's Congress government is cranking up the heat to prove elections are gamed. As the Mahagathbandhan opposition alliance in Bihar announced its chief ministerial face in Patna, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) zeroed in on people who attempted to delete Congress votes in Karnataka's Aland Assembly segment during the 2023 state elections.

Launching the Congress's signature campaign against "vote chori", the state's revenue minister, Krishna Byre Gowda, said the "Election Commission is working as a BJP subsidiary" in stealing elections. The Congress, and the rest of the opposition, is clearly untroubled by the illogic of calling elections a fraud on the people by a captured Election Commission even while participating in one under the same Election Commission.

The question is, why hasn't the INDIA bloc boycotted Bihar elections if elections are as compromised as it claims?

Boycotts are, after all, not that uncommon. According to the Global Election Boycotts Database, more than a fifth (21.36%) of the 356 national-level elections in 70 countries held between 2000 and 2022 were boycotted.

The trickier question is, do boycotts work? And herein lies an alarming subtext on the state of India's democracy.

Political studies literature is stacked against election boycotts as resistance. This is because boycotts remove all competition, which the regime could use to strengthen its grip on power – as the fear is with the Modi government.

The long-term consequences of election boycotts are more complicated. Some studies indicate increases in democratisation index scores and a significantly higher likelihood of an incumbent losing in a future election.

One comprehensive study of 171 threatened and actual election boycotts between 1990 and 2009, however, shows success was achieved in only 4% of the cases. Alejandro Toledo's boycott in Peru in the early 2000s, for example, drove Alberto Fujimori from power. But for the most part, boycotts entrenched the ruler.

Elections, it is contended, keep opposition parties relevant and their organisations engaged and give them some leverage and access to State resources and means of patronage. Boycotts, on the other hand, allow the incumbent uncontested authoritarian control.

An oft-cited example is Venezuela, where opposition boycotts in Hugo Chávez's first term allowed him to consolidate power unopposed. Boycotts also may have similarly helped Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe. In Azerbaijan, the opposition's boycott of the 2003 elections could not keep Ilham Aliyev from power; he is still the president. So is the 92-year-old Paul Biya in Cameroon, despite opposition boycotts since the 1990s.

Opposition perseverance with the electoral process, on the other hand, has toppled many a strongman: Slobodan Miloševic in the Yugoslav elections in 2000, Georgia's Eduard Shevardnadze in 2003, and Ukraine's Viktor Yanukovych in 2004.

These examples are instructive, but one could also question their relevance to India. A democratic crisis in every country is, after all, unique, shaped by its own stage of democratic evolution, civic culture, history, context, and its place in the global imagination. A boycott here might play out very differently from in Venezuela or Zimbabwe.

We will never know, though, because the opposition is not taking any chances. This risk aversion is a reflection of the depths to which our democracy has fallen.

When a democracy reaches a stage where the opposition participates in elections it knows are manipulated, we are decidedly in the territory of managed democracy – a hybrid regime of ostensible electoral competition but with limited real choice – where elections exist as a procedural ritual even as substantive power remains centralised. The opposition plays its bit in maintaining the democratic façade for fear of worse if it doesn't.

The electoral process is the final frontier that is breached before we get to this stage.

In the past decade, our democratic space has been incrementally constricted. But it felt that, theoretically at least, there was still a possibility of upending power through elections. That possibility still exists but has become a lot more skewed if even votes are being manipulated, not just institutions. Crumbs of power are still attainable for the opposition – a state here, some seats there, as part of the managed democratic appearances – but the hurdles to real power may have become insurmountable. That is the lot of competitive authoritarianism, which sits between full democracy and full autocracy.

Enough unanswered questions in past months have put a question mark on the very sanctity of our electoral process, many of them raised by the same political parties that still decided it is better to be in than out. Because what if we are in the early Chavez or Mugabe years? What if it gets worse if we opt out?

These are not the sort of parallels the "world's largest democracy" ought to be looking at. Or the choices its opposition ought to be making.

The opposition has been trying to prove our democracy is cooked. It has succeeded, ironically by its own actions.

No matter who wins in Bihar, India's democracy is losing for sure.

(The writer is co-author of To Kill a Democracy: India's Passage to Despotism*)*

In Japan, home to the world's highest number of centenarians —the country has one lakh-plus citizens who are a hundred or older—age-related frailty is posing significant challenges

Working past 100? In Japan, some people never quit

CHANG W LEE

Masafumi Matsuo, 101, a farmer, at his home in Oita, Japan, with his great-grandson Toki Satake, 1. The two are a hundred years apart. THE NEW YORK TIMES

Japan has about 100,000 people who have lived for a century or more—the most in the world, and more per capita than in any other country. The frailty that comes with age is creating challenges for Japan, where a record-low birthrate means ever more retirees and fewer working-age people to support them.

But for some people, reaching 100 is just another milestone in a full life. *The New York Times* met five remarkable centenarians who credited their longevity to eating well, Japan's affordable health care, exercise and family support. But for these five, there is also something else: their work.

The bicycle repairman

As a 12-year-old, Seiichi Ishii was walking home from school one day when he came across a "help wanted" sign in the window of a bicycle repair shop in the Shitamachi district of Tokyo. He had always admired the long navy jumpsuits that bike repairmen wore, and he wanted to step into one himself.

More than 90 years after that start, Ishii is still fixing bikes at his own shop. Although the legs of the jumpsuit are too long for his shrinking body, he goes to bed every night excited about the customers who might show up the next day. "If I die here, in my workshop, I will be happy," he said. "I am a working man, and that doesn't change with age!"

Ishii, 103, loves removing bolts and tires and puzzling out how to piece everything back together, though his hands have grown shaky and his vision is blurrier than in his younger days.

Ishii remembers living through the war, when nothing was guaranteed. His income from the repairs supplements a monthly pension of 50,000 yen, or about $330. "You never know what will happen," he said, making miso soup for one in the cluttered kitchen behind his shop.

Working on bikes brings him even more joy than singing karaoke, which he does every Sunday at his favorite snack bar. He rides a tricycle to get there. On special karaoke outings, he wears his old jumpsuit with the hems rolled up.

The ramen chef

Five or six days a week, Fuku Amakawa works the lunch shift at her family's ramen restaurant alongside her son and daughter, using long chopsticks to swirl egg noodles in pork broth and sprinkling chopped spring onions into bowls filled with hot soup.

"I can't believe I've managed to work this long without getting bored," she said while disinfecting serving trays.

Amakawa, 102, said she has always been a bit stubborn. She put off her arranged marriage as long as she could. But after she made the leap, she opened the restaurant with her husband. Its 60th anniversary was this year.

"It is really beautiful that I can still work. Physically and emotionally, it changes the quality of my life," she said, sitting below an autographed photograph of Takuya Kimura, a singer and actor who visited the restaurant last year. Amakawa's skin glistens, which she attributes to all the steam in the kitchen.

One of her biggest fears is losing the ability to walk, and she said the work helps her stay fit. Last year, she felt pain in her chest and panicked, afraid she was having heart problems. But a doctor told her not to worry: It was just muscle pain, from lifting heavy pans.

The farmer

Bright yellow rapeseed flowers, Masafumi Matsuo's favorite, filled the fields behind his home when he was young. He loved the mild bitterness of the vegetable, which turns sweet when cooked and which he farmed and sold. But his son, who now runs the family farm, decided to replace the flowers with rice, a less laborious crop to maintain.

Matsuo, 101, also grows eggplants, cucumbers and beans across different seasons. "I work to stay healthy," he said on a July morning, dragging a plastic stool out into the field, where he sipped water during breaks from watering his rice seedlings.

Matsuo was born, grew up and raised three children in his town, which is nestled in the mountains of Oita, a coastal prefecture on the southwestern island of Kyushu. His wife died four years ago, which devastated him. Every morning, he climbs the stairs, clutching the railing, to the second floor, where he has made a Buddhist shrine to his wife and brings her freshly cooked rice.

Matsuo, who survived esophageal cancer and, at 99, a bout of COVID, spends his weekends playing with his year-old great-grandson, Toki. After farming each day, he goes inside to rest at his kotatsu, a heated table that's covered with heavy blankets. He slides down into their warmth as grasshoppers bounce around on the windowsill behind him.

The beauty consultant

Tomoko Horino always knew there was more in store for her than staying home. Inspired by a salesperson she had met, she wanted to sell makeup. But she was a young mother of three, and cultural norms meant it would not be considered proper for her to work. At 39, she ran into an old friend whose husband was recruiting salespeople for the same makeup brand she'd fallen in love with years before. With her children older, she took the job. Horino loved seeing her customers' faces light up as they tried a new lipstick color or foundation that she'd suggested.

"When I first tried on makeup, I felt so pretty," she said. "I wanted to make others feel the same way."

Her husband, who worked in an office, wasn't happy to have a wife who also worked, but the family was in a dire financial situation. All he asked was that she knock on doors where she wouldn't be recognized. She complied, traveling at least an hour from home to sell her products. Soon she was making more than he was.

Now widowed and living alone at 102, she makes her sales over the phone, with only occasional home visits. Keeping busy helps her fend off loneliness. She spends the rest of her time knitting, feeding tuna-flavored kibble to the neighborhood cat and waiting for neighbors to drop by for a cup of oolong tea. Although she has outlived most of her clients, she's never considered quitting her job.

"I love making people feel beautiful," Horino said. When she sees a customer's self-confidence rise, "that is the most important and joyful part of this," she said.

The storyteller

When Tomeyo Ono plopped onto a cushion to begin her performance, there was total silence. Then, from somewhere deep in her petite body, she started to recite the folktale of a bull and a baby bear, with perfect enunciation.

As she spoke, she gestured wildly with her hands, the audience hanging on every word. At the end, the room filled with applause.

With a repertoire of 50 stories, Ono is a teller of minwa, or folktales, a career she took up for fun after turning 70. "I've never had a proper job before; can I do this?" she said she thought at the time. "I was raised in the suburbs, and girls didn't know that we could have dreams back then."

Now 101, she is the oldest, and loudest, member of a storytelling collective. After the 2011 tsunami washed away her home in Fukushima, she vowed to incorporate the experiences of its survivors into her work.

"I'm living to tell my stories," Ono said, tears rolling down her cheeks. She said she was terrified by the idea of folktales, or memories of the tsunami, being lost.

Every day, she writes in her journal and eats natto — a sticky dish made from fermented soybeans — folded between two pieces of fluffy white bread. Occasionally, she dozes off while reading the newspaper as her daughter-in-law tidies up around her. "I get special treatment because I'm the oldest," she chuckled.

Lately, Ono said, she "no longer dreams of the living," seeing only friends and family from the past. She is determined to keep telling stories until she joins them, she said.

The New York Times

Silence is complicity

DIMA KHATIB

It is the largest massacre of journalists in human history. In Gaza, 253 Palestinian journalists and media workers have been killed since October 2023 — more than those killed in the wars of Afghanistan, Vietnam, the Balkans, World War I, and World War II combined. Yet these killings remain mostly uninvestigated, unpunished, and unacknowledged by those responsible — a stark example of the impunity that allows attacks on journalists to continue.

Ten of those 253 were my colleagues at Al Jazeera Media Network. I still miss the voice of my colleague, Anas Al-Sharif, every morning from Gaza City — reporting on the humanitarian situation, talking to people every day. He was killed in a targeted attack on journalists near Al Shifa Hospital on 10 August 2025. He left behind a family who will forever be without a father, and a farewell letter that went viral — a heartbreaking tradition now common among Gaza's journalists, who leave their last words in hospitals to be delivered to loved ones after their death.

No other media organisation has ever lost so many journalists in such a short time, in any single conflict. These are reporters and camerapersons who have been working under inhuman conditions for a prolonged period: bombed, starved, displaced, hunted, and threatened. Their killings are not accidents of war but deliberate state policy — and the whole world is watching it live on their phones. Their work should be celebrated as heroic. Were it not for them, the world might never have known what has been happening in Gaza, since Israel allows no foreign journalists to enter unless embedded with the Israeli army and reporting under its scrutiny. It is still the case today, after the ceasefire agreement has entered in place.

Journalists have been inheriting gear from each other. When one is killed, the next takes their vest and resumes their work — sometimes on the same day, reporting on the killing of their colleague while wearing that very vest. One particular vest is now being worn by a third journalist, after two were consecutively killed wearing it. They know the risk they face, yet they continue — driven by duty to tell the world their people's stories, and by the conviction that their lives as Palestinians are already under threat, so they might as well use the time left to make a difference.

I remember our first loss in Gaza in December 2023: Samer Abu Daqqa. He was killed while documenting the aftermath of an airstrike. Wounded and trapped, he bled for hours as medics were blocked from reaching him. We kept pleading with the world on all platforms to save him. We knew he was still alive. When colleagues later recovered his camera, it was still recording — smoke and silence filling the final frame. His death turned Al Jazeera's newsroom into a mourning hall and sent a clear message: journalists in Gaza were now deliberate targets, exactly like the 8th April 2003 when our newsroom turned into a mourning hall as we lost our colleague Tarek Ayyoub, killed in a US airstrike on Baghdad, Iraq. The aim is always the same: to silence the voice of the truth.

In Palestine this impunity had begun way before the genocidal war on Gaza — when my colleague and friend Shireen Abu Akleh was killed by a sniper in May 2022 while reporting from the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. She was a dual Palestinian-American citizen. Dozens of investigations proved, time and again, that she was targeted — yet there were no consequences. That lack of accountability allowed Israel to continue and intensify its killing of journalists without fear of repercussions. It has even gone further, labelling journalists as "terrorists" to justify their murder. Sadly, some media organisations echoed this propaganda, betraying their own profession by failing to verify Israel's claims. The dehumanisation of Palestinians by the media extended to Palestinian journalists, who were not considered "white" enough to be defended in the name of "universal" human rights.

If the community of journalists does not defend its own — regardless of colour, race, nationality, ethnicity, or religion — then Israel's war on journalists will inevitably become a war on journalism itself. If this massacre is allowed to continue in Gaza today, unpunished and unaccounted for, it can happen anywhere, anytime, again.

Silence is complicity.

(The writer is a Palestinian journalist and Managing Director of AJ+)

(This article marks the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists observed on November 2)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 1975

Chinese kill four Indian soldiers in border ambush

New Delhi, November 2
Four Indian soldiers were killed when a patrol party of one non-commissioned officer and five men was ambushed by a 40-strong Chinese contingent on the northern border on October 20. An official spokesman said today that the party was well within Indian territory and in an area which had been regularly patrolled by Indian forces for many years. There has been no previous incident in this area. He declined to identity the location of the ambush for what he described as "well-considered reasons."

25 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 2000

Every minute six youths pick up HIV: Unicef

New Delhi, Nov 2 (UNI)
Six young people below the age of 25 become infected with HIV every minute and girls' rate of catching infection outpaces that of boys in many places, says Unicef's Annual Report 2000. At the end of 1999, 34.3 million people in the world were living with HIV, 24.5 million of them in Sub-Saharan Africa. Observing that the dreaded disease has set back hard-won gains in child survival, health and education in many countries, it says poverty and armed conflict worsen the tragedy of HIV/AIDS.

OASIS | CHANDER GUPTA

The art of choosing between bad and worse

In the milieu we are living in, the choices we confront are not always between good and bad. Such are the present times that most of the alternatives we have to pick from are either bad or worse.

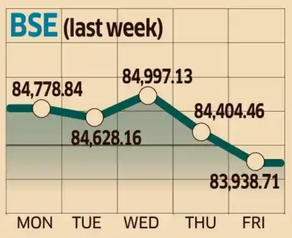
There is hardly any real dilemma when we have to choose between good and bad. It is not hard to differentiate between good and bad. You will not err in discerning between the good and bad options you have to choose from.

The dilemma arises when the alternative of bad is not good but worse. This is the scenario in which we often find ourselves. Let me give a mundane example from my life. To escape the wrath of mosquitoes that abound in our area, I use any of the commonly available mosquito repellents in our home even though I am allergic to the fumes emitted. My wife also abhors the smell of mosquito repellent. Agreeing with her that fumes of mosquito repellent were harmful even for humans, I convinced her that mosquito bites were much worse. That is how I resolved the inner conflict by being clear as to what was worse.

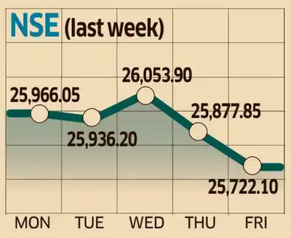
Let me give another example of choosing between bad and worse from the dilemma I am currently confronted with. Constructions are going on on two plots adjacent to our house. There is unbearable noise and dust pollution emanating from construction activities. To shield ourselves from the noise and dust, I keep all the doors and windows of our house shut during the daytime. Feeling suffocated, my wife yearns to open some door or window. But we know that opening the window or door will lead to worse outcomes. Therefore, we settle for the 'bad' situation of closed doors and windows.

Many a time we would be at a loss to figure out which choice is worse. At that time, we have to weigh the pros and cons to arrive at clarity. Whenever confronted with choosing between bad and worse, we must make a call without letting pangs of hesitation deter us.

Most of the decisions that we have to make are about making the right choices. By understanding that bad is better than worse, we will learn to make right choices without guilt.



*Data as of Oct 31



TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
TATA STEEL	4.84%	BAJFINANCE	-4.29%
SBIN	3.60%	KOTAKBANK	-3.88%
LT	3.25%	M&M	-3.82%
RELIANCE	3.31%	BAJAJFINSV	-3.31%
TMPV	2.81%	INFY	-2.81%

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
SBI LIFE INS	6.30%	DR REDDY'S	-6.70%
JSW STEEL	5.66%	CIPLA	-5.24%
INDUSIND BK	5.26%	BAJFINANCE	-4.31%
TATA STEEL	4.82%	KOTAK MAHI	-3.88%
SHRIRAM FIN	4.68%	MAH & MAHI	-3.80%

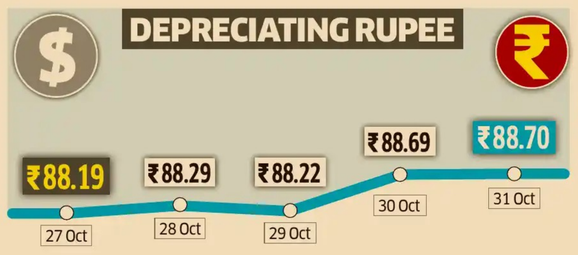
Sensex (52-week)

Oct 31, 2024	Oct 31, 2025	
79,389.06	83,938.71	5.73%

Nifty (52-week)

Oct 31, 2024	Oct 31, 2025	
24,205.35	25,722.10	6.27%

10-year Bond yield 6.53%



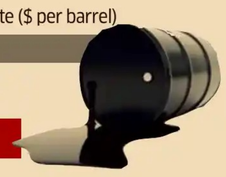
Exchange Rates*

Dollar	₹ 88.70	SGD	₹ 68.28
Pound	₹ 116.69	Yen (100 units)	₹ 57.61
Euro	₹ 102.67		

*Price at which banks sell

Crude Oil Rate ($ per barrel)

BRENT CRUDE
$64.77*
0.62%
*Rate as of Oct 31



Bengaluru fuel pump price*

(Retail)
Petrol* ₹102.92 ₹-0.10%
Diesel* ₹90.99 ₹-0.10%
*Rates as of Nov 1 #Rate change compared with yesterday

Commodity watch

COFFEE

Category	Rate (Rs per 50 kg)*
Arabica Parchment	₹ 27500 - 28000
Arabica Cherry	₹ 14000 - 15700
Robusta Parchment	₹ 17000 - 17500
Robusta Cherry	₹ 10700 - 11600

*Rates as on Oct 30

Other Commodities

Silkworm cocoon (Rs per kg)*

Bivoltine (BV)	₹ 633
Cross Breed (CB)	₹ 585

*Average rates as on Oct 31

FPIs pump Rs 14,610 cr into equities in October

NEW DELHI, PTI

After withdrawing money for the past three months, foreign investors have turned net buyers with a net infusion of Rs 14,610 crore in October, supported by resilient corporate earnings, a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve, and hopes of US-India trade talks materialising soon.

This turnaround comes after a prolonged spell of persistent outflows, with FPIs pulling out Rs 23,885 crore in September, Rs 34,990 crore in August, and Rs 17,700 crore in July, data from depositories showed.

The renewed inflow in October, therefore, marks a notable shift in sentiment, reflecting fresh confidence among global investors towards Indian markets.

Explaining the change, Himanshu Srivastava, Principal, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said the reversal was driven by improved risk sentiment and attractive valuations, following the recent correction and resilient corporate earnings across key sectors.

He added that the turnaround also coincided with easing inflation, expectations of a softening interest rate cycle, and supportive domestic reforms, such as GST rationalisation, which further strengthened investor confidence.

Vaqarjaved Khan, Senior Fundamental Analyst, Angel One, noted that the latest inflows were "supported by companies posting better Q2 FY26 results, the 25 bps rate cut by the US Fed, and optimism around US-India trade talks materialising soon".

Looking ahead, Morningstar's Srivastava said the sustainability of this trend will depend on continued macro stability, a benign global environment, and consistent corporate earnings in the coming quarters.

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments, said that "there are clear signs of earnings recovery now. If brisk demand conditions are sustained, earnings will improve, which in turn will make valuations fair. In such a scenario, FPIs are likely to remain buyers".

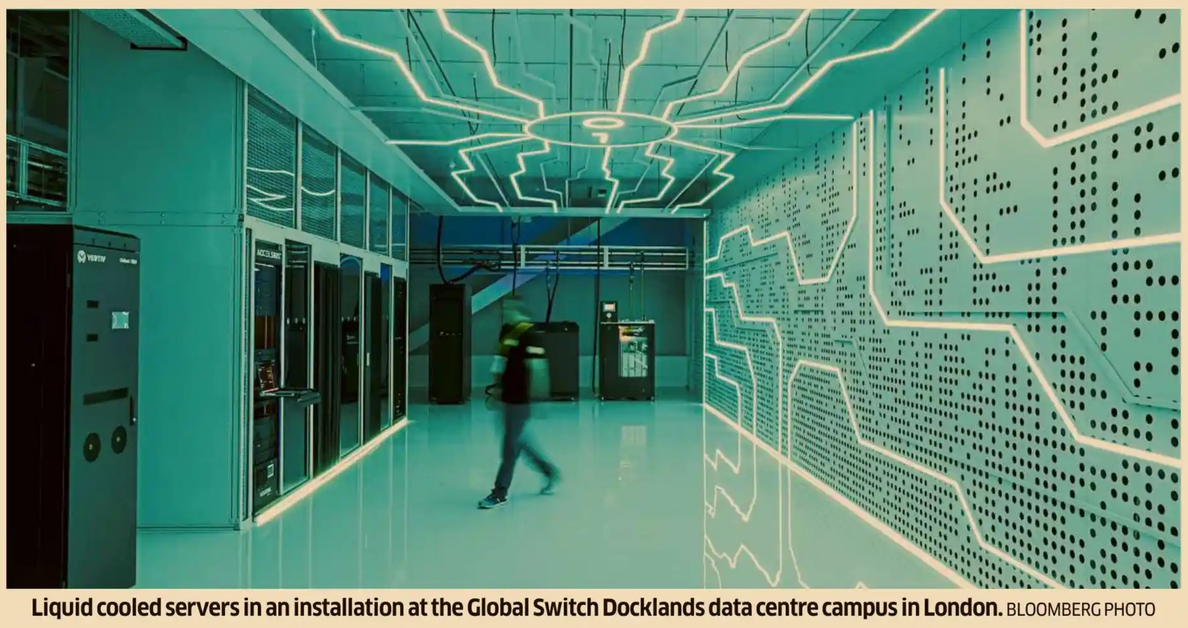
Further, Khan believes that FPI inflows could continue in November as outflows from July to September, totalling more than Rs 77,000 crore, were largely driven by global headwinds.

With those pressures now easing and India and the US signalling progress on trade negotiations, sentiment appears poised for further improvement.

However, he cautioned that the quantum of FPI flows will still depend on the timing of the trade deal, the remainder of the Q2 FY26 results, and any further easing signals from the US Federal Reserve.

Despite the recent uptick in equity inflows, FPIs have still withdrawn around Rs 1.4 lakh crore so far in 2025.

Meanwhile, in the debt market, FPIs invested about Rs 3,507 crore under the general limit while withdrawing Rs 427 crore through the voluntary retention route in October.



Liquid cooled servers in an installation at the Global Switch Docklands data centre campus in London. BLOOMBERG PHOTO

India's data centre boom powered by Google, OpenAI

Google last month outlined plans to invest about $15 billion to build an AI hub

BLOOMBERG

As Alphabet Inc.'s Google and other US tech behemoths pledge billions of dollars to build artificial intelligence infrastructure in India, investors are racing to identify local firms set to benefit from the wave of investments.

The creation of an AI ecosystem offers a fresh opportunity to investors in India's $5.4 trillion market, which has so far trailed this year's global equities rally in part due to an absence of pure-play AI names like US chipmaker Nvidia Corp. and Chinese chip designer Cambricon Technologies Corp.

Investors are turning to local ancillary companies, from equipment makers to power generators, that are expected to benefit from the build-out of supporting facilities needed for AI — one of the hottest equity trades globally. Investments in India's data centre market alone are projected to top $100 billion by 2027, according to CBRE Group Inc.

"India is powering the AI era through the infrastructure needed to run it — the servers and energy capacity," said Shambhavi Gupta, founder of global macro insights platform Nine Spot Seven. "Unlike the tech rally, this one is rooted in tangible assets."

A custom index tracking shares of 10 such ancillary companies has jumped more than 30% since this year's low in April when President Donald Trump's tariff shocks rocked global markets. That's almost double the gains in the benchmark NSE Nifty 50 Index during the period.

Global tech heavyweights are fueling the momentum. Google last month outlined plans to invest about $15 billion building an AI infrastructure hub in southern India in partnership with some local firms. ChatGPT-maker OpenAI is also seeking to build a massive data center in the nation, *Bloomberg News* reported in September.

Earlier this year, Microsoft Corp. said it aims to spend $3 billion to expand its cloud-computing and AI capabilities in India. Amazon.com Inc. already has plans to invest $12.7 billion by 2030.

Here are some of the potential beneficiaries of this boom and their stock performance over the past three months:

Data Centre Operators and Partners

AdaniConneX Pvt. — a joint venture involving tycoon Gautam Adani's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd. (+2.1% over three months), and India No. 2 wireless carrier Bharti Airtel Ltd. (+7.3%), is partnering with Google on its project in the port city of Visakhapatnam. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd. (+6.9%) is also expected to spend as much as $15 billion for a one-gigawatt data centre. The three companies together may account for 35%-40% of India's data centre capacity by 2030, according to Jefferies Financial Group Inc.

India's biggest software exporter Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (+0.7%) also plans to build an AI data centre of up to one gigawatt, while OpenAI is scouting local partners for its establishment.

Meanwhile, Sify Infinit Spaces Ltd. one of India's data-centre pioneers, last month filed for a Rs 3,700 crore ($417 million) initial public offering. Fractal Analytics, India's first AI unicorn that provides related products and services, also filed for an IPO in August.

Electrical and power equipment

A large portion of capital expenditure for data centres is expected to flow toward electrical and power equipments including makers of switchgears, transformers, and power distribution units.

Stocks to watch out for: Hitachi Energy India Ltd. (-12%), which provides end-to-end electrification equipment for data centres; Siemens Ltd. (+2.1%), Schneider Electric Infrastructure Ltd. (-17%) and ABB India Ltd. (-5.3%), which offer power distribution systems and industrial equipment.

"The data centre investments are going to be a big boost to the power sector in India," said Ashish Gupta, chief investment officer at Axis Mutual Fund, which has about $40 billion in assets. Power and related costs would account for about 40% of capital expenditure incurred for data centres, he said.

Also in the fray are makers of cables and wires such as Havells India Ltd. (-0.5%), RR Kabel Ltd. (-2%), and Dynamic Cables Ltd. (+0.4%). Ashit Mangal, managing director at Dynamic Cables, touted data centers as a "huge" opportunity in the company's latest earnings call.

Cooling solutions

The heavy energy use from AI workload generates significant heat, needing specialised cooling systems, especially during India's scorching summer. Blue Star Ltd. (+11%) and Voltas Ltd. (+4.2%) are among largest local companies providing such solutions that are suitable for data centers.

Server and cloud infrastructure

Beyond power and cooling, data centres also need the physical computing backbone. Netweb Technologies India Ltd. (+99%) is being touted as a key player in servers, storage, backup and supercomputing solutions. E2E Networks Ltd. (+49%) provides cloud infrastructure and managed services, with a focus on high-performance computing for AI.

DH INTERVIEW

'We want to promote products built around Web3'

After almost 15 months, crypto exchange WazirX restarted its operations on October 24. A cyberattack on the exchange in July last year resulted in the theft of about Rs 2,000 crore. The crypto exchange, which had over 15 million users, is now trying to rebuild user confidence and enhance security. In an interaction with Uma Kannan of *DH*, WazirX founder Nischal Shetty said that after this attack, they learned the need to go with a top-class custody provider who can withstand such attacks. Edited excerpts:

What kind of response or feedback have you received from existing users? Has there been any panic selling?

The response has been really positive, and we were surprised to see the enthusiasm that people have in using the platform. Because before that something like this has never happened - where an exchange gets attacked at this magnitude and then comes back. It's not like there's any playbook out there. We did not know what to expect, and we were cautious. The most important aspect was how do we make sure that, as we restart, there's no panic selling. But we knew that the platform was not operational for 15 months, and there would be people who would have wanted to sell their assets for whatever reason. What we did was we restarted in phases. The other thing that we did was, before the restart, we started a campaign to educate people on what to do when the restart happens. Our objective was to tell everyone not to panic sell. We told them there's no need to rush because we are restarting. People understood that, and that's why we did not see a lot of panic selling.

WazirX founder Nischal Shetty

What is the percentage of exit? How many users do you have at present?

It's been only a few days now, and we have been focused on restarting the platform. We've actually not gone into the details of numbers. We reported Rs 40–50 crore worth of trading volume in the last 24 hours (on Oct 28). It's been the same the last few days, and it's been growing. From the second or the third day (Oct 25 or 26), we started seeing Rs 40–50 crore range of trading volume in a 24-hour period.

You are saying that no exchange has seen such a huge (Rs 2,000 crore) attack. What was your learning experience?

There's been a ton of learning in this whole 15-month journey, right from the beginning where we did not even know what's the right direction. But we acted quickly. For example, when the theft happened, we quickly employed the help of the right agencies to trace the stolen assets, which led to about $3 million worth of assets being frozen immediately. Though it's a small amount, in a case like this, it's very hard to recover anything because there's a state actor involved — North Korean hackers were involved. So, it's hard, but because of the swift decision-making back then to employ the services of the right people, we were able to get some recovery. We knew liquidation was the default route, but that would have led to several years of delays and low returns. We decided to look for a solution — restructuring. We distributed around 85% of the value during the restart. For the remaining 15%, we've baked into the scheme a three-year plan — we'll work hard to generate profits and recover stolen assets, and distribute those back to users.

Has crypto awareness increased among people in these 15 months?

A lot more people are aware of crypto right now. There's a lot more enthusiasm. It's growing — but on a global level. The kind of enthusiasm seen globally over the last 15 months hasn't quite reached India. Everyone is focused on exchanges. We're not really talking about building — you can't easily name a startup from India that's working on Web3 or decentralised applications. Many are using Web3 products built by the West, for the West. What India needs is an entire ecosystem focused on decentralised applications — where Indian developers, startups, and entrepreneurs are actively building for that space. Unfortunately, that ecosystem hasn't yet taken off. We want to work toward changing that. As an exchange, we also want to help promote Indian products built around Web3.

Do you have any plans to increase trust or bring in new users from now on?

We definitely have to work towards that. We will do whatever our customers want us to do that helps them. For example, after this attack, we learned that we need to go with a top-class custody provider that can withstand such attacks. That's why we went with BitGo, which has $90 billion worth of assets, so our $300–400 million is a small portion of that pool. Now they are going to take care of it. They have insurance worth $250 million and are a US entity — a multi-billion-dollar company. We have chosen BitGo for the majority of our funds so that they stay secure there.

GST revenue collection to exceed budget target despite rate cuts: SBI

In October, mop-up rises to Rs 1.96 lakh crore; Karnataka registers 10% surge

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Revenue collection from the goods and services tax (GST) is likely to exceed the budgetary targets for the current financial year despite a substantial reduction in rates that came into force from September 22, an analysis by SBI Research shows.

In a research note based on historical data, it said that "rationalisation does not necessarily weaken revenue collections."

In October, the first full month after implementation of the rate rationalisation, GST revenue collection stood at Rs 1.96 lakh crore, 4.6% higher when compared with the same month last year. According to analysts, the October revenue collection was driven by strong festive demands and pent-up consumption.

"The strong momentum of GST collections belies not only the near absurd fear of large falls being circulated it refutes the apprehension expressed by states about a perceived decline in GST revenue post rationalisation," noted the research paper authored by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, State Bank of India's Group Chief Economic Advisor.

Several states, including Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have demanded compensation for the implementation of GST rate rationalisation citing possible revenue losses.

Karnataka had estimated a monthly decline of Rs 7,083 crore due to GST rate cut, while West Bengal has pegged its monthly revenue loss at Rs 1,667 crore.

However, in October, Karnataka witnessed a 10% year-on-year jump in its GST revenue collection. Karnataka's revenue from GST rose from Rs 13,081 crore in October 2024 to Rs 14,395 crore in October 2025. Telangana also witnessed a 10% year-on-year jump. Tamil Nadu's revenue collection increased by 4% year-on-year to Rs 11,588 crore in October, as per data released by the Union Finance Ministry.

There was a marginal decline in GST revenue in West Bengal and Kerala. West Bengal witnessed 1% year-on-year decline, while October revenue collection in Kerala was 2% lower when compared with the same month last year.

"Assuming that states experience same gains (and losses) post rationalisation as in October 2025, we project GST revenue for FY26 wherein on a very rudimentary basis, most of the states seem to experience positive gains for the entire fiscal post rationalisation confirming overall states should remain Net Gainers post GST rationalsation," SBI Research said.

The GST Council at its meeting held on September 3 agreed on significant rate cuts and large-scale reforms in the GST. The initiative termed as "GST 2.0" came into effect from September 22.

Different agencies have projected a significant drop in GST revenue collection due to the rate cuts. IDFC First Bank Research and Axis Bank Research have pegged the revenue loss at Rs 1.8 lakh crore. Emkay Global Research has put the loss at Rs 1.2 lakh crore. SBI Research has pegged it at Rs 60,000 crore, while the Union Finance Ministry estimates Rs 48,000 crore revenue loss due to the rate rationalisation.

While an immediate reduction in rates can cause a short-term dip of around 3–4% month-on-month (roughly Rs 5,000 crore, or an annualised Rs 60,000 crore), revenues typically rebound with sustained growth of 5–6% per month, SBI Research said.

Referring to the previous rate rationalisation exercise announced in July 2018 and October 2019, SBI Research said it had led to additional revenues of nearly Rs 1 lakh crore.

"Importantly, rationalisation should be seen less as a short-lived stimulus to demand and more as a structural measure that simplifies the tax system, reduces compliance burdens, and enhances voluntary compliance, thereby widening the tax base," it added.

In 2024-25, gross GST revenue collection stood at Rs 22.08 lakh crore, which was 9.4% higher than the previous year. In April-October 2025, the GST revenue collection stood at Rs 13.89 lakh crore, as against Rs 12.74 lakh crore in the same period last year, registering a growth of 9%.

Mcap of four of top 10 valued firms jumps by Rs 95,447 crore

NEW DELHI, PTI: The combined market valuation of four of the top 10 valued firms jumped by Rs 95,447.38 crore last week, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainer.

From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) were the gainers, while HDFC Bank, TCS, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, Infosys and Hindustan Unilever faced a combined erosion of Rs 91,685.94 crore from their valuation.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries surged by Rs 47,431.32 crore to Rs 20,11,602.06 crore. State Bank of India added Rs 30,091.82 crore to take its valuation to Rs 8,64,908.87 crore. The market capitalisation (mcap) of Bharti Airtel climbed Rs 14,540.37 crore to Rs 11,71,554.56 crore.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Better Q2 earnings likely to lift equities

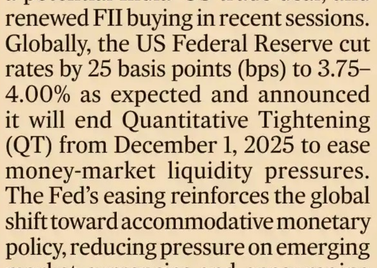
This week, focus will be on monthly auto sales

SIDDAHARTHA KHEMKA

This week, Indian equities are expected to see a gradual uptick, supported by better-than-expected Q2 earnings, optimism over a potential India–US trade deal, and renewed FII buying in recent sessions. Globally, the US Federal Reserve cut rates by 25 basis points (bps) to 3.75–4.00% as expected and announced it will end Quantitative Tightening (QT) from December 1, 2025 to ease money-market liquidity pressures. The Fed's easing reinforces the global shift toward accommodative monetary policy, reducing pressure on emerging market currencies and encouraging capital inflows into Indian bonds and equities. The European Central bank (ECB), on the other hand, kept interest rates unchanged.

This week, focus will be on monthly auto sales, reflecting festive-season demand, and quarterly results from Bharti Airtel, Titan, SBI, M&M, LIC, Indian Hotels, Grasim, Adani Enterprises, Delhivery, and Sun Pharma. Key macro releases include US manufacturing and services PMI, US balance of trade, and China's services PMI, while progress on US-China and US-India trade talks will remain important for market.

Meanwhile, the Trump–Xi meeting in South Korea eased trade tensions and raised hopes of partial tariff rollbacks, boosting global risk sentiment and supporting equities and EM currencies, with a China–US trade negotiations making progress, including China's commitment to purchase 25 mmt of US soybeans annually and ease supply of rare earth minerals. India and the US also signed a new 10-year defence framework to enhance military cooperation, strengthen regional stability, and boost defence manufacturing under Make in India.



Last week, Nifty 50 ended lower by 73 points (-0.3) at 25,722. Broader market indices also declined, with the Nifty Midcap 100 down 0.1% and the Nifty Smallcap 100 lower by 0.7%. Among sectoral indices, the trend was mixed. PSU Banks (+5%) and Infrastructure (+1.8%) outperformed, while IT (-0.8%), and Auto (-1.1%) ended in the red. The FMCG, Pharma, and Financial Services indices saw marginal declines. Overall, the markets remained range-bound after the midweek rally, with profit booking at higher levels and select buying interest in PSU and infrastructure stocks. Last week, Nifty 50 surged past the 26,000 mark on Wednesday, although it is currently consolidating near those levels.

PSU Banks gained attention following the government's plan to raise the FDI limit from 20% to 49%, while shares of EMS companies surged after approvals under the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), totaling Rs 5,532 crore in investments and projected output of Rs 44,406 crore.

India's defence sector continued to gain momentum, with the Defence Acquisition Council approving capital acquisitions worth Rs 79,000 crore, following earlier approvals of Rs 67,000 crore in August 2025. The rollout of the Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025, effective November 2025, represents a structural shift in procurement efficiency, including higher tender thresholds, capped penalties for local suppliers, and guaranteed orders for indigenously developed systems for up to five years, expected to streamline timelines and boost MSME participation.

The consumer sector also showed healthy momentum, supported by resilient festive demand, urban consumption recovery, and evolving preferences across discretionary and essential categories, aided by adaptive pricing strategies, improved distribution, and premiumization trends. FMCG volumes stabilized post-GST 2.0, and festive demand in jewellery and select discretionary categories remained strong.

The Indian IPO market is gaining momentum, with a strong pipeline of listings and large size deals ahead led by unicorns like Groww and Lenskart amid strong investor appetite. Markets are likely to remain range-bound with a mild positive bias, as investors track global developments and foreign fund flows.

(The writer is Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited)

All about share buy-back tax regime

Recently, the Infosys founders were in the news for opting out of the company's buy-back offers. Infosys has proposed its biggest-ever buy-back offer of up to 10 crore equity shares - Rs 1,800 per equity share as against the market closing price of Rs 1,482.30 on October 31. The record date for the buy-back is expected to be on or around November 14, 2025.

In spite of assured gain of Rs 318 per equity share, the founders, collectively holding 13.05% equity, chose not to participate in the said exercise. What would be the reason? Whether the changed buy-back tax regime forced them back? Whether resident shareholders exercise the option or follow suit? Whether non-resident shareholders have an edge over their resident counterparts? Let us have a look at these issues briefly.

What is buy-back of shares?

It is an act of purchasing its own shares by a company from the existing shareholders. A company is allowed to use its free reserves, securities premium, and the proceeds of issue of any shares or other specified securities to buy-back its shares. The benefits available for a company are to improve the earnings per share, improve return on capital and net worth, and a positive market perception to force further growth in share price, among others. For shareholders opting in, they can expect an easy exit with a higher premium compared to market offers, subject to applicable taxes. Those who retain can expect long-term wealth creation due to a change in shareholding pattern but over a period of time.

Old buy-back tax regime

Until September 30 2024, the domestic companies that go for buy-back exercises were liable to pay taxes at 20% with applicable surcharge and cess on consideration. At the same time, shareholders who exercised the option were exempted from taxes. In other words, any consideration received thereon as fully exempted. In fact, tax on the distributed income of a domestic company from buy-back of shares was introduced by the Finance Act, 2013, in line with the then scheme of dividend distribution tax. In 2020, the dividend distribution tax was done away with.

New buy-back tax regime

Due to representations received on tax payouts on buy-backs to treat both buy-back and dividend payouts in the same manner, the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Union Budget 2024-25 tabled on July 23, 2024, had proposed certain groundbreaking measures to widen the tax base. Changes to buy-back of shares existing tax treatment, were one of them. Accordingly, the income from buy-back of shares by companies shall be chargeable in the hands of the recipient investor as 'dividend income' and shall be chargeable to tax at applicable tax rates. Further, if the buy-back consideration paid to a resident shareholder shall be subject to TDS at 10%.

PRABHAKAR K S
FOUNDER & CEO OF
SHREE TAX CHAMBERS

For shareholders, the associated cost incurred on purchasing such shares shall be allowed as a capital loss and adjusted against other capital gains. The full consideration received by such shareholder for computation of gain shall be deemed to be 'nil'. Accordingly, the cost of acquisition of such shares would generate a capital loss in the hands of the shareholder. No expense is allowed as a deduction in the hands of shareholders. The above changes came into force on October 1, 2024.

Effectively, buy-back offers by companies on or after October 1, 2024, shall be governed by the new tax regime.

Advantage for non-residents

Due to India's tax treaties with other countries, non-resident shareholders invested in Indian companies are likely to benefit from the new buy-back tax regime. Tax treaties have extended lower tax rates on their dividend income received from India. For instance, India-UK or India-Mauritius treaties provide tax benefits on mutually agreed terms. Accordingly, the UK or Mauritius-based shareholders' dividend income is subject to lowered tax as low as 5% to 15%.

To opt in or hold, or sell

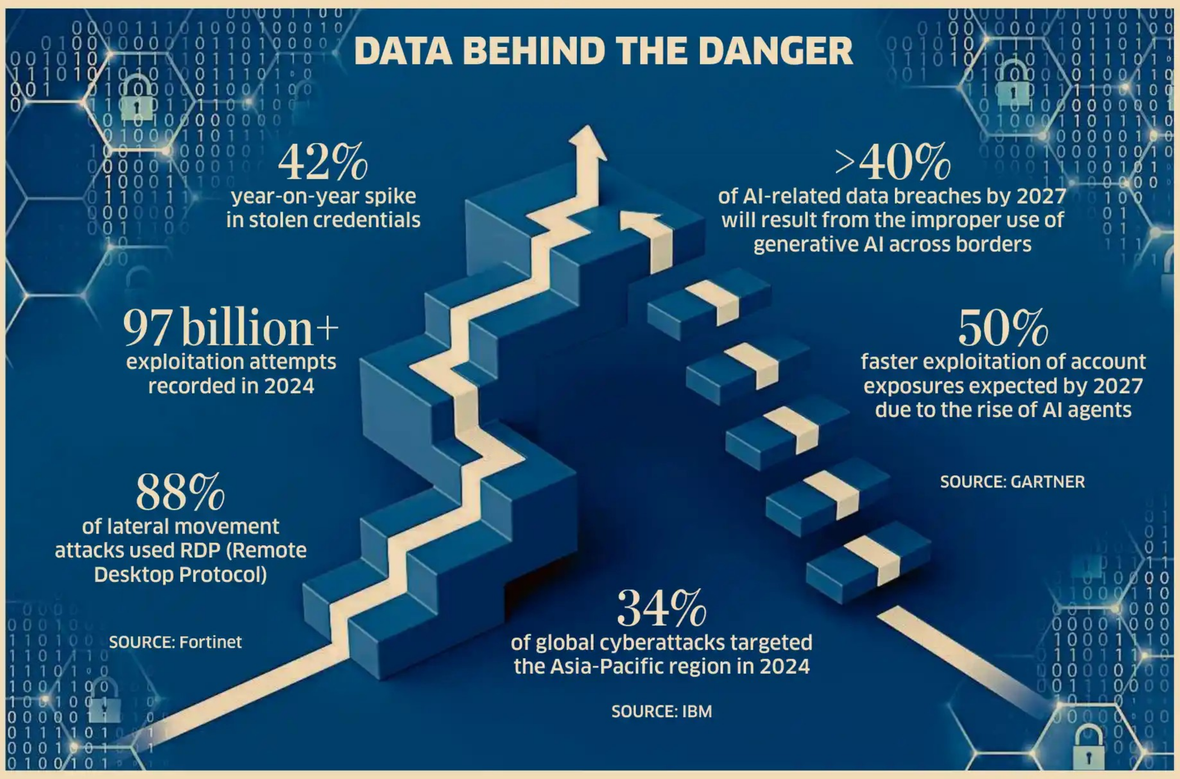
Since the founders were not parting with their holdings, the other investors are in a dilemma whether to exercise the option or not. For instance, if an investor bought a share at Rs 1,000 long back and opts for the buy-back offer at Rs 1,800, the entire amount will be considered as income and attract applicable taxes. Due to a change in tax regime, the buy-back is largely favourable to small investors who fall under low tax brackets. Given Infosys' debt-free, strong cash flows, dividends, and sectoral leadership, others may retain their holdings, or explore open market offers.

Why firms now see cybersecurity as a business enabler

Cloud, identity, and AI shifts are moving risk from the server room to the boardroom

CAROLINE DIANA
BENGALURU, DHNS

Customers today don't just buy products — they buy confidence. Whether it's a B2B enterprise deal or a consumer subscription, trust in an organisation's ability to safeguard data and ensure uptime is increasingly tied to conversion, retention, and recurring revenue. Sales teams are finding that proof of robust security posture — including certifications, breach transparency, and zero-trust frameworks — can directly influence deal velocity and customer stickiness. In regulated sectors, it's often the deciding factor. In this environment, cybersecurity doesn't just protect value. It helps create it.


DATA BEHIND THE DANGER
42%
year-on-year spike in stolen credentials
>40%
of AI-related data breaches by 2027 will result from the improper use of generative AI across borders
97 billion+
exploitation attempts recorded in 2024
50%
faster exploitation of account exposures expected by 2027 due to the rise of AI agents
SOURCE: GARTNER
88%
of lateral movement attacks used RDP (Remote Desktop Protocol)
SOURCE: Fortinet
34%
of global cyberattacks targeted the Asia-Pacific region in 2024
SOURCE: IBM

For decades, cybersecurity was treated as a cost — a backend safeguard handled quietly by IT teams, aimed at keeping threats out and operations running. But that mindset is rapidly shifting. As organisations embrace AI, scale through cloud, and navigate increasingly complex digital ecosystems, cybersecurity is moving out of the technical basement and into the strategic core. The role of the CISO is evolving, and the boardroom is paying attention.

> Autonomous agents that can reason, prioritise, and act across identity, endpoint, and cloud data in real-time – controlled by human analysts – are the future of security operations.
>
> **KARTIK SHAHANI**
> Vice President-India & SAARC, CrowdStrike

Organisations are still struggling with a fragmented approach. "It's not just about how much you invest; it's about where and how you invest," says Venkat Thoutam, Business Unit Security Officer – Dell IT and a Regional Security Lead -APJC.

He says that while many organisations are adding more tools, they are not necessarily building a cohesive, risk-based cybersecurity framework. Security cannot operate in silos; it must be aligned with business priorities and integrated across IT, legal, and compliance functions.

"Human awareness continues to be the missing piece. Technology can mitigate risk, but without a culture of shared vigilance, extending to team members and partners, even the best tools fall short," he says.

This cultural element — the shift from siloed controls to enterprise-wide awareness — is what separates tactical defences from strategic ones.

Human layer

Vinod V Jayaprakash, Consulting Cybersecurity Leader, EY GDS, agrees that the human layer is still underappreciated in most enterprises. "As a cyber leader, I recognise that ransomware attacks, AI-driven sophisticated social engineering, supply chain vulnerabilities, and executive-targeted phishing are among the most pressing threats we face today," he says.

He sees a meaningful shift underway. "The move toward true cyber resilience, integrating recovery and business continuity alongside the rise of AI-enhanced threat detection, quantum-resistant cryptography, and zero-trust security architectures promise stronger, more adaptive defences against the evolving cyber risks. These innovations maximize automation without sacrificing strategic human oversight." Yet, he cautions: "Many enterprises overinvest in technology while underestimating the importance of human factors like security awareness, training, and governance. Lack of holistic risk management and vendor security oversight also leaves gaps that attackers are able to exploit."

Sharda Tickoo, Country Manager for India & SAARC, Trend Micro, believes that cybersecurity today has a direct impact on an organisation's commercial outcomes. "The biggest concerns aren't traditional threats in the conventional sense but major technological shifts that have emerged as critical risk vectors," she says, pointing to AI, quantum computing, IoT, and deepfakes as compounding pressures on business continuity.

> There has been a significant increase in supply chain attacks over the last few years. The strategy has now changed from 'going after the weakest link' to going after the link, where with one hack you can get access to multiple organisations.
>
> **GAUTAM KAPOOR**
> MD & Lead – Cybersecurity, Accenture-India

"We're seeing adversaries weaponise AI faster than many organisations can secure it," she adds. "The need of the hour is about protecting the data, models, and infrastructure that power it."

She warns that rising budgets alone won't protect revenue pipelines. "We have observed organisations are spending more, but they're still playing defence." Many suffer from "tool sprawl," yet still miss basics like unpatched vulnerabilities and cloud misconfigurations.

"The organisations that thrive will be those that embed security as a business enabler," she says — turning abstract IT threats into measurable operational and financial risks. "Rising budgets without strategic evolution simply mean expensive losses instead of cheap ones." For revenue-focused leaders, that shift — from defence to exposure management — may determine who gains customer trust and who loses it.

> As AI becomes more agentic and capable of autonomous, cooperative problem-solving, the question of "excessive agency" becomes critical.
>
> **SHARDA TICKOO**
> Country Manager-India & SAARC, Trend Micro

Kartik Shahani, Vice President of India and SAARC, CrowdStrike, sees AI-powered attacks, identity misuse, and cloud vulnerabilities as the biggest threats facing organisations today. "Adversaries are weaponising AI to accelerate, automate, and scale their attacks," he says, noting how even lower-tier actors now use AI to write code and bypass security measures.

Identity has become the new frontline. "Attackers no longer break in, they log in," Shahani warns, highlighting how credential abuse allows them to move laterally across systems unnoticed. Meanwhile, cloud adoption has intensified exposure. "Cloud intrusions surged 136% in the first half of 2025," he notes, with misconfigurations and fragmented tools proving especially risky.

For defenders to stay ahead, AI must become their ally too — but not as just another tool. "Unlike copilots that follow 'ask and respond' models, AI agents can reason, make decisions, and act." These systems, Shahani says, allow analysts to focus on strategy, while intelligent agents handle the grunt work.

His advice for the future? A single, unified architecture that shares intelligence across identity, endpoint, and cloud. That, he believes, is what will distinguish resilient businesses from vulnerable ones — especially when attackers are compressing the breach timeline from months to seconds.

Gautam Kapoor, Managing Director and Lead – Cybersecurity, Accenture India, believes the top threats haunting enterprise leaders today aren't just technical—they're operational and reputational. Insider risks, often underestimated, continue to be a major concern. "Negligence or malicious intent from within, especially in hybrid work environments, makes it difficult to contain exposure," he notes.

> Many organisations still see cybersecurity as just a regulatory requirement, not as a way to support the business.
>
> **AMRISH KUMAR JAIN**
> CIO, Tally Solutions

AI has emerged as both a tool and a threat. Cybercriminals are now using generative AI to craft targeted phishing campaigns and impersonate executives through deepfakes—raising the stakes for fraud and data loss. At the same time, enterprises adopting AI without secured environments are inadvertently widening their attack surface.

> Security has moved from a supporting element or non-functional requirement to a primary buying criterion. Today, before checking the feature list, people ask, 'Is it safe?'
>
> **SUDHAKAR SINGH**
> Head of Responsible AI, SAP

Kapoor also flags the growing complexity of supply chain threats. "One breach in a third-party system can compromise multiple organisations," he warns.

What sets resilient firms apart, he argues, is foresight. "Designing secure systems from the start, embedding AI defensively, and automating response workflows are now strategic imperatives," he says. As cyber risks evolve, Kapoor sees security not as overhead, but as the infrastructure of trust—baked into innovation cycles, customer relationships, and revenue protection.

What's also evolving is the public's understanding of security. For Sudhakar Singh, Head of Responsible AI, SAP, the conversation is no longer limited to compliance — it's about visibility and trust. "Security has moved from a supporting element or non-functional requirement to a primary buying criterion. Today, before checking the feature list, people ask, 'Is it safe?'"

He adds, "People increasingly recognise that security isn't the responsibility of a few—it's a collective task. Every person and every link in the chain matters to keep people, systems and the nation safe."

This growing awareness is pushing security teams closer to the heart of business decision-making. Tickoo reinforces this shift: "The shift from reactive to truly proactive protection needs to be accompanied by visionary leadership, disciplined commitment to staying ahead of the curve, and the courage to invest in security as a business enabler."

Organisations that view cybersecurity as a strategic function — not just a risk-control measure — are better positioned to earn trust, close sales, and grow sustainably.

TOP PICKS

The data is sourced from Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited

TVS Motors (ID: TVSMOTOR) — BUY
Upside +19%** | Last close ₹3,509 | Target: ₹4,159*

M&M Financial (ID: M&MFIN) — BUY
Upside +11%** | Last close ₹316 | Target: ₹350*

Tata Steel (ID: TATASTLPP) — BUY
Upside +15%** | Last close ₹183 | Target: ₹210*

Federal Bank (ID: FEDERALBNK) — BUY
Upside +10%** | Last close ₹237 | Target: ₹260*

Coforge (ID: COFORGE) — BUY
Upside +34%** | Last close ₹1,785 | Target: ₹2,400*

* Target price has been calculated on the basis of fundamentals ** Upside refers to more value stock is expected to generate than its current price

Car sales zoom in October driven by GST rate cut

NEW DELHI, PTI: Top carmakers led by Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Kia India on Saturday reported record sales in the domestic market riding on festive demand boosted by GST rate cut.

Other manufacturers such as Skoda Auto India and Toyota Kirloskar Motor also posted impressive growth in sales in October. "In October, we did a retail of 2,42,096 units, which is a growth of almost 20% over the last year," Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Partho Banerjee, told reporters in a virtual interaction.

It was the highest-ever retail sale that the company did in an October. In the 40-days festival period starting from Navratra, he said the company had 5 lakh bookings with 4.1 lakh retail sales, "which is almost double of the last year".

Banerjee said before the GST reforms there were challenges in the new set of first-time car buyers entering the market but after GST 2.0 many customers have started coming to showrooms.

In terms of wholesales, Maruti Suzuki India said its total domestic sales, including commercial vehicles, stood at an all-time high of 1,80,675 units as against 1,63,130 units in the same month last year, up 10.75%.

Domestic passenger vehicle sales were at 1,76,318 units as against 1,59,591 units in October 2024, up 10.48 per cent, it added.

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd also reported record SUV sales in the domestic passenger vehicle market growing by 31 per cent to 71,624 units in October as compared to 54,504 units in the same month last year.

"In October, we achieved SUV sales of 71,624 units, a growth of 31%, which is the highest SUV sales we have clocked ever in a month," M&M CEO, Automotive Division, Nalinikanth Gollagunta said. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles also reported its best ever wholesales at 61,295 units in October as compared to 48,423 units in the same month last year, a growth of 26.6%.

The record-breaking monthly wholesales for the second consecutive month at 61,295 units was led by SUVs.

Top woman Naxal surrenders in MP's Balaghat

BALAGHAT/BHOPAL, PTI: A woman Naxalite carrying a reward of Rs 14 lakh on her head surrendered in Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh, a police official said on Sunday.

Sunita laid down arms on November 1 before Rupendra Dhurve, assistant commander of Hawk Force, a specialised anti-Naxal unit of the MP police, the official added.

"Sunita was an armed guard of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) Central Committee member and NMC Zone in charge Ramder. She was carrying a bounty of Rs 14 lakh jointly announced by Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh police. She is a resident of Gomveta in Bhairamgarh in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur tehsil," the official said.

Sunita, who carried an INSAS rifle, was active in Madhya Pradesh, Gondia in Maharashtra and Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh.

She was associated with the outlawed movement since 2022, and took training in Madh area of neighbouring Chhattisgarh, the official said.

'Bahubali' lifts off with 4.4-tonne CMS-03 sat

It is the heaviest satellite launched from Indian soil

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) on Sunday successfully launched the 4,410-kg communication satellite CMS-03 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota near here. This is the heaviest satellite launched from Indian soil into a geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO).

Known as "Bahubali" for its heavy lift capability, the LVM3-M5 rocket launched the CMS-03 spacecraft at 5.26 pm from the second launchpad of the SDSC. Sixteen minutes into the flight, the rocket placed the satellite into the required orbit upon reaching an altitude of approximately 180 km.

"The satellite... is precisely injected within the specification of the orbit," Isro Chairman Dr V Narayanan announced to rapturous applause from scientists at the SDSC mission control room.

LVM3-M5 carrying the communication satellite CMS-03 lifts off from the launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre. PTI

The launch, the 103rd from the SDSC, was particularly challenging due to inclement weather in the region for the past week under the influence of Cyclone Montha. Another significance of Sunday's launch is that Isro for the first time reignited the thrust chamber of the cryogenic stage.

The CMS-03 communication satellite will operate on multiple bands, which will provide service over a wide oceanic region, including the Indian landmass, to enable constant visibility of a satellite towards a particular region on Earth.

The satellite, designed to provide communication services for at least 15 years and replace the GSAT-7 series launched in 2013, incorporates a host of new technologies and is yet another "shining example" of a "self-reliant India".

Narayanan said since CMS-03 was the heaviest satellite launched by the LVM3 to the GTO so far, the launch vehicle had to be improved in multiple directions to enhance the payload capability by 10%.

"In today's mission, all the vehicle systems performed satisfactorily, and the RBM was achieved within the required specification," said the Isro chairman.

AMBITIOUS MISSION

- Launch Vehicle Mark-3, developed with indigenised technologies, gives Isro self-reliance in launching heavier satellites
- Isro's heaviest satellite, GSAT-11, was launched in December 2018
- LVM3 has powered Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3, and will be used for Gaganyaan

New naval satellite to boost India's maritime surveillance across Indian Ocean

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Indian Navy's second satellite, CMS-03, is expected to provide the maritime force much more bandwidth over the Indian Ocean region, boosting its ability to keep a watch on the high seas between the Gulf of Aden on the west and the Strait of Malacca in the east.

The satellite, also known as GSAT-7R, comes 12 years after the first naval satellite GSAT-7, which is now at the fag end of its operational life.

"This is India's heaviest communication satellite till date, weighing approximately 4,400 kg, and includes many indigenous state-of-the-art components developed specifically to meet the Indian Navy's operational requirements," said an official.

In comparison, GSAT-7 weighed 2,650 kg and carried Ku-band, S-band, C-band, and ultra-high-frequency-band transponders. GSAT-7R has similar transponders, but in higher numbers.

GSAT-7R is expected to provide robust telecommunications coverage across the Indian Ocean region, as its payload includes transponders capable of supporting voice, data, and video links across multiple communication bands.

Navy sources said the new satellite would significantly enhance connectivity with high-capacity bandwidth, enabling seamless and secure communication links between ships, aircraft, submarines, and Maritime Operations Centres of the Indian Navy.

"This satellite will be a game-changer for our maritime and national security, providing advanced, secure communication channels that are critical in the Indian Ocean Region and mainland," said Indian Space Association Director General Lt Gen AK Bhatt (Retd).

The Navy is getting its second communication satellite at a time when the armed forces are putting more emphasis on space-based technologies. The third phase of the space-based surveillance system — approved by the Union Cabinet — is to be put into motion by 2027-28.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) is readying a second launchpad at Kulasekarapattinam in Tamil Nadu, primarily for private companies, including startups, to launch a variety of earth observation and imaging satellites.

Isro has also signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for the commercial launch of Small Satellite Launch Vehicles that can be used by private firms to launch satellites for civilian and military purposes.

Venkateswara temple founder blames crowd for stampede

KASIBUGGA, PTI: Claiming he was not responsible for the tragic stampede at Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple that left 9 devotees dead, the founder of the temple has said devotees rushed on their own during gathering.

He said he had not informed the police, as he thought everything would be normal like any other day.

Nine people—eight women and a boy—were killed and many others injured in the stampede at the temple constructed by Panda on his own land, here in Srikakulam District, on Saturday.

The tragedy was worsened by the Ekadasi observance coinciding with 'Karthika Masam'.

"What should I do if so many people come at once? I usually send everyone in line, but yesterday there were many people. I don't know what happened," priest Mukunda Panda said.

Chief secys to appear before SC today over stray dog issue

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday the case concerning stray dogs, in which it had directed the chief secretaries of all the states and Union Territories — except West Bengal and Telangana — to remain present before it.

While hearing the matter on October 27, the top court had directed the chief secretaries to remain present before it on November 3 to explain why compliance affidavits were not filed despite the court's August 22 order.

The SC on August 22 asked the states and UTs about the steps being taken for compliance with the Animal Birth Control Rules.

UP man buys gold chain for wife with Rs 20 coins

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Abhishek Yadav, a small-time betel seller in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur town, managed to turn an age-old money-saving habit into gold. Literally! Reports said he wanted to gift his wife a gold chain, but his earnings were too little to afford it, especially with the skyrocketing prices of the yellow metal.

He, however, devised a novel way to save money. He started setting aside Rs 20 coins from his daily sales. In a little more than a year, he saved more than 5,000 coins.

While his wife was visiting her parents, he visited a jewellery shop with a bag full of Rs 20 coins and asked to buy a gold chain worth around Rs 1 lakh.

"I was initially shocked when he (Abhishek) put the bag on the counter and said it had coins worth more than Rs 1 lakh," said shop-owner Mahesh Kumar.

It turned out that there were 5,290 coins of Rs 20 denomination — almost Rs 1.06 lakh. Although the cost of the gold chain was Rs 1.25 lakh, Mahesh told Abhihsek he could pay the remaining amount in instalments.

An elated Abhishek said he never imagined that he would ever be able to gift his wife a gold chain, given the metal's soaring prices. "I will present the chain to my wife when she returns from her parents' house," he said.

India's biggest tri-service exercise kicks off in Gujarat, Rajasthan

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Six months after Operation Sindoor, India is carrying out its biggest military exercise along the coast of Gujarat and the western borders of Rajasthan.

The exercise involves all three services and other agencies, who are practising "multi-domain integrated operations in a large and complex operational environment".

Exercise Trishul, which involves more than 50,000 troops, aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, amphibious ship INS Jalashwa, landing craft utility vessels, submarines, and over 40 Indian Air Force (IAF) combat jets, also reportedly focuses on the disputed Sir Creek area, about which Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently warned Pakistan.

BATTLE-READY

- Exercise involves all three services and other agencies, who are practising "multi-domain integrated operations"
- Expected to validate joint Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and cyber warfare plans
- Amphibious operations would be a critical part of the exercise

The ongoing drill, continuing till the second week of November, aims to enhance synergy between all forces and validate integrated operations, said sources, adding that amphibious operations would be a critical part of the exercise.

It is also expected to validate joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Electronic Warfare (EW), and cyber warfare plans.

The Indian Navy will conduct operations from the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant jointly with shore-based IAF assets.

For the exercise, New Delhi has issued multiple NOTAMs (Notices to Airmen), closing a part of the airspace over Rajasthan and the Arabian Sea till November 11 for the drill.

The war game will feature large-scale operations across the creek and desert sectors of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

WORLD

British national in custody over mass stabbing on UK train

LONDON, PTI: Two people remain in life-threatening condition on Sunday after mass stabbings which injured 10 people on a high-speed London-bound train, as British Transport Police ruled out a terrorism link to the "major incident" as counter-terror police engagement was discontinued.

One UK-born man remain in custody after being arrested at the scene of the attack on Saturday night, when armed police stormed the train at Huntingdon station in Cambridgeshire, eastern England. The train, which had been travelling from Doncaster and was headed to King's Cross station in the UK capital, made the unscheduled stop at Huntingdon after what has been described by eyewitnesses as a bloody rampage on the train minutes after it left nearby Peterborough station.

US, China set to reboot military channels

Bid to deconflict and deescalate any problems that arise

WASHINGTON, AFP

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Saturday that during talks with his Chinese counterpart, the two sides had agreed to reboot military-to-military links to "deconflict and deescalate".

Hegseth met with China's Defence Minister Dong Jun on the sidelines of a regional summit in Malaysia, a day after leaders Xi Jinping and Donald Trump held talks in South Korea.

"I just spoke to President Trump, and we agree -- the relationship between the United States and China has never been better," Hegseth said in a post on X, adding that he had spoken with Dong again since their face-to-face meeting.

"The Admiral and I agree that peace, stability, and good relations are the best path for our two great and strong countries," he said, touting a path of "strength, mutual respect, and positive relations."

Donald Trump and Xi Jinping. REUTERS FILE

The Pentagon chief said Dong and he "also agreed that we should set up military-to-military channels to deconflict and deescalate any problems that arise."

Such channels have existed for years but at times fallen out of use.

"We have more meetings on that coming soon," Hegseth said without elaborating.

There was no immediate comment from Beijing.

According to a Chinese defense ministry readout of their meeting in Malaysia, Dong had told Hegseth the countries should "strengthen policy-level dialogue to enhance trust and dispel uncertainty", and build a bilateral military relationship "characterised by equality, respect, peaceful coexistence and stable positive momentum."

Trump threatens military action in Nigeria over killing of Christians

▸ US President Donald Trump threatened on Saturday to send the military into Nigeria with "guns-a-blazing" if Africa's most populous country does not stem what he described as the killing of Christians by Islamists, reports AFP from West Palm Beach.

In an explosive post, the Republican leader -- who had campaigned unsuccessfully for the Nobel Peace Prize -- said on social media he asked the Pentagon to map out a possible plan of attack, one day after warning that Christianity was "facing an existential threat in Nigeria". Nigeria is embroiled in numerous conflicts that experts say have killed both Christians and Muslims without distinction.

US strike in Caribbean kills 3 alleged drug smugglers

▸ The US military has carried out another lethal strike on alleged drug smugglers in the Caribbean Sea, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth announced Saturday, reports AP from West Palm Beach .

Hegseth in a social media posting said the vessel was operated by a US-designated terrorist organisation but did not name which group was targeted. He said three people were killed in the strike.

It's at least the 15th such strike carried out by the US military in the Caribbean or eastern Pacific since early September. The US military has now killed at least 64 people in the strikes.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

UK to strip disgraced Andrew of last military position: Minister

▸ Britain's former prince Andrew is due to be stripped of his last remaining military position as part of King Charles' decision to remove his brother from public life, the defence minister said on Sunday, reports Reuters from London.

John Healey told BBC television that moves were underway to take away Andrew's position as a vice admiral in the British navy and that Charles had "indicated that's what he wishes".

The king last week stripped his younger brother of his title of prince and evicted him from his mansion in a bid to prevent further damage to the royal family's reputation over Andrew's ties to the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. "This is a move that's right, it's a move the king has indicated we should take and we're working on that," Healey said.

Prince Andrew

5 German mountaineers die

▸ Five German mountaineers died after being hit by an avalanche in South Tyrol, in northern Italy, rescuers said on Sunday, reports AP from Rome.

Three victims — two men and a woman — had already been recovered dead on Saturday, while the bodies of two other missing people, a man and his 17-year-old daughter, were found on Sunday morning.

"They had been dragged to the lower part of the gully where the avalanche occurred," said Alpine rescue spokesman Federico Catania. "Rescue teams are now returning to the valley, also considering the worsening weather conditions at high altitude."

The mountaineers, all Germans, were hit by the avalanche at about 4 p.m. on Saturday while climbing near the Cima Vertana, in the Ortles mountains.

23 dead in Mexico store fire

▸ A fire and explosion at a convenience store in northwestern Mexico on Saturday killed at least 23 people, including children, and injured 12 others, state authorities said, reports AP from Mexico City.

The fire occurred in downtown Hermosillo, the capital of Sonora state, Sonora Gov. Alfonso Durazo said in a video posted on social media.

Sonora Attorney General Gustavo Salas Chávez provided the death toll and said the injured were taken to six hospitals in Hermosillo.

Salas Chávez said preliminary investigations showed the deaths were caused by "inhalation of toxic gases."

"At this time we have no indication that leads us to presume the fire was intentional," he said, noting authorities had not ruled out any line of investigation.

Canada turns to India amid tariff tensions with US

NEW YORK, PTI: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has referred to the "progress" his country has made with India as he stressed that Canada is building partnerships abroad amid tariff pressures with the US.

Carney's remarks on Saturday came after US President Donald Trump last week terminated all trade negotiations with Ottawa "based on their egregious behaviour."

"...And to be building new partnerships with countries around the world. And there is no better place to do that than in the fastest growing part of the world that represents 60% of the global economy," Carney said, referring to the Asia-Pacific region.

Speaking to reporters after the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in South Korea, he cited the free trade deal with Indonesia, talks with the Philippines and Thailand.

"Progress which we have been making with India...So I didn't meet directly with PM (Narendra) Modi here, (but), the foreign minister, other ministers have been meeting with India," he said. "That's what we're doing to build our strength at home, first and foremost. Build these partnerships abroad, reduce our reliance on the US," he added.

Russia launches new nuclear submarine carrier of doomsday drone

Enables Moscow to ensure security of its maritime borders

MOSCOW, PTI

Russia has launched its latest nuclear submarine to be armed with a 'Poseidon' nuclear drone, also known as 'doomsday missile' capable of "wiping out" coastal nations, according to media reports.

The nuclear submarine 'Khabarovsk' was launched by Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov at a solemn ceremony in the presence of Russian Naval Chief Admiral Alexander Moiseyev and other top shipbuilding officials in Severodvinsk at Sevmash shipyards.

"Today marks a significant event for us – the heavy nuclear-powered missile cruiser Khabarovsk is being launched from the stern of the renowned Sevmash," Belousov said in his televised remarks late on Saturday night.

Sevmash shipyards had earlier retrofitted INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier for India.

The Russian defence minister emphasised that the submarine carrying underwater weapons and robotic systems will enable Russia to successfully ensure the security of its maritime borders and protect its national interests in various regions of the world's oceans, according to TASS, the Russian news agency.

The Khabarovsk nuclear submarine was designed by Rubin, the Central Design Bureau of Marine Engineering, and is intended to address Navy missions using modern underwater weapons, including robotic systems for various purposes.

Moscow blasts Kyiv's power grid; 2 killed

At least two people were killed in a drone attack in Ukraine's southwestern Odesa region, Ukrainian authorities said on Sunday. Elsewhere, Russia continued to pummel the country's energy infrastructure, reports AP. Russian drones attacked a car park in the Odesa region on Sunday killing two people.

IN BRIEF

Advani to lead India at World snooker

▸ Three-time champion Pankaj Advani will lead the Indian charge at the IBSF World Snooker Championships that begins in Doha, Qatar, on Monday, reports DHNS.

The men's event will be held in two stages (Nov 3-6 & 7-13). The women's event that begins on Friday, November 6.

India teams: Men: Pankaj Advani, Brijesh Damani (both Stage 2), Paras Gupta, Dhvaj Haria, Malkeet Singh, Md, Hussian. **Women:** Anupama Ramachandran, Amee Kamani, Keerthana Pandian, Natasha Chethan, Aanya Patel, Shruthi L. **Coach:** Ashok Shandilya.

Unnati bows out in semis

▸ Rising shuttler Unnati Hooda suffered a straight-game loss against top-seed Putri Kusuma Wardani of Indonesia in the women's singles semifinals to draw curtains on India's campaign at the USD 475,000 Hylo Open, reports PTI from Saarbrucken, Germany.

The 18-year-old athlete from Rohtak was impressive this week but she couldn't match the speed and accuracy of Wardani, losing 7-21, 13-21.

Jamieson, Sodhi in NZ squad

▸ Injury-prone pacer Kyle Jamieson and spinner Ish Sodhi on Sunday made their way back into the New Zealand squad for the T20I series against West Indies beginning on Wednesday, reports AFP from Auckland.

Uncapped all-rounder Nathan Smith has also been included in the 14-member squad and could make his T20I debut.

NZ T20I squad: Mitchell Santner (capt), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Zak Foulkes, Kyle Jamieson, Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Rachin Ravindra, Tim Robinson, Tim Seifert (wk), Nathan Smith, Ish Sodhi.

Indian para shuttlers win

▸ India's para-badminton contingent shone brightly at the Indonesia Para-Badminton International with the pair of Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam, four others clinching gold medals across categories to cap a dominant campaign, reports PTI from Jakarta.

Mayank ton props up Chhattisgarh, K'taka steady

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chhattisgarh rode a big century from wicketkeeper-batter Mayank Verma to post 303 all out on the opening day against table toppers Karnataka in their elite Group D match of the Col CK Nayudu Trophy in Mysuru.

Mayank compiled 164 runs off 233 balls with 15 boundaries and a six, anchoring the innings even as wickets fell at regular intervals. Only Pratham Jachak offered notable support, scoring a brisk 53 off 46 balls, striking four sixes to keep momentum alive.

Karnataka bowlers chipped away consistently, with Shashi Kumar K, Dhruv Prabhakar, Hardik Raj and Karthikeya KP claiming two wickets each.

In reply, Karnataka openers Prakhar Chaturvedi (16 not out) and Jasper EJ (1 n.o.) saw out the remaining five overs without damage, reaching 17/0 at stumps.

Brief scores: Chhattisgarh: 303 all out in 83 overs (Mayank Verma 164, Pratham Jachak 53; Shashi Kumar 2-93, Hardik Raj 2-83, Dhruv Prabhakar 2-45, Karthikeya KP 2-34) vs Karnataka 17/0 in 5 overs.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Ranji Trophy: Tamil Nadu vs Vidarbha, Punjab vs Goa, Himachal Pradesh vs Hyderabad **(day 3, 9:30 pm). LIVE** on **JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Sunderland vs Everton **(1:30 am). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

CRICKET THIRD T20I

Sundar draws India level

Arshdeep strikes in five-wicket win over Aussies

HOBART, PTI

Washington Sundar enhanced his reputation as a T20 hitter with India batting in top gear through the innings to comfortably chase down a target of 187 for a series-levelling five-wicket win over Australia here on Sunday. This is the first time that Australia have lost a T20 International at the Ninja Oval, earlier known as Bellerive Oval.

Tim David (74 off 38) bludgeoned the Indian bowling attack to take Australia to 186 for six after the visitors opted to bat. With the firepower India possess, they were expected to overhaul the target but Nathan Ellis (3/36) made their job tougher with his sharp and testing spells. India eventually got home in 18.3 overs.

Abhishek Sharma (25 off 16) once again produced a flurry of boundaries in the powerplay before skipper Suryakumar Yadav (24 off 11), Tilak Varma (29 off 26), Axar Patel (17 off 12) and Sundar (49 not out off 23) did their bit. Jitesh Sharma (22 not out off 12), playing his first game of the series, got valuable time in the middle and got the job done alongside Sundar.

Washington, who is rather underrated as a power-hitter, showed he can use the long handle effectively with the majority of his sixes coming in the cow corner region. The absence of Josh Hazlewood in the opposition camp -- the pacer's focus now shifts to the Ashes, also made India's task a lot easier. Barring Ellis, who troubled the Indian batters with short balls at express pace, Australian bowlers were not able to test the Indians enough.

The fourth T20 of the five-match series will be played in Gold Coast on November 6.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA

Head c Suryakumar b Arshdeep	6
Marsh c Tilak b Varun	11
Inglis c Axar b Singh	1
Tim David c Tilak b Dube	74
Owen b Varun	0
Stoinis c (sub) Rinku b Singh	64
Short (not out)	26
Bartlett (not out)	3
Extras (LB-1)	1
TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 20 overs)	**186**

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-14, 3-73, 4-73, 5-118, 6-182.

Bowling: Singh 4-0-35-3, Bumrah 4-0-26-0, Varun 4-0-33-2, Axar 4-0-35-0, Dube 3-0-43-1, Abhishek 1-0-13-0.

INDIA

Abhishek c Inglis b Ellis	25
Gill lbw b Ellis	15
Suryakumar c Ellis b Stoinis	24
Tilak c Inglis b Bartlett	29
Axar c Bartlett b Ellis	17
Sundar (not out)	49
Jitesh (not out)	22
Extras (NB-2, W-5)	7
TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 18.3 overs)	**188**

Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-61, 3-76, 4-111, 5-145.

Bowling: Bartlett 4-0-30-1, Abbott 3.3-0-56-0, Ellis 4-0-36-3, Kuhnemann 4-0-31-0, Stoinis 2-0-22-1, Short 1-0-13-0.

Result: India won by 5 wickets. **Series:** India level five-match series 1-1. **PoM:** Arshdeep Singh. **Fourth T20I:** Nov 6 (Gold Coast).

India's Washington Sundar (left) and Jitesh Sharma celebrate after defeating Australia in the third T20I in Hobart on Sunday. AFP

Arshdeep spell

Opting to bowl in nippy conditions, India started well courtesy Arshdeep Singh who struck twice in a two-over spell on his return to the side. His performance earned him the Player of the Match award. Playing his first game of the series, India's leading wicket taker in the format removed the dangerous Travis Head and Josh Inglis to leave Australia at 14 for two.

However, India's early advantage was negated by David (74 off 38) who targeted every Indian bowler in an exemplary show of power-hitting. Four of his five sixes came down the ground while one was a was slap over cover off Axar Patel. Following his dismissal, the seasoned Marcus Stoinis (64 off 39) stepped up on the offensive to take Australia to a competitive total.

Whether it was the peerless Jasprit Bumrah or mystery spinner Varun Chakaravarthy, David just looked to dominate. David got a reprieve batting on 20 when Washington Sundar dropped him at point off Bumrah. It was a regulation catch though the ball literally flew towards him.

India missed the services of injured all-rounder Hardik Pandya with Shivam Dube being taken to the cleaners by both David and Stoinis. The sixth bowling option was Washington but the team opted for the left-arm spin of Abhishek Sharma who leaked 13 runs in his only over. It was more to do with no left-handers at the crease during that specific time.

Babar, Shaheen fire Pak to series win

LAHORE, AFP

Fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi grabbed three wickets and star batter Babar Azam hit a half-century to guide Pakistan to a four-wicket win over South Africa in the third Twenty20 international.

Shaheen took 3/26 to restrict South Africa to 139 for 9 before Azam's 47-ball 68 helped Pakistan overhaul the target for the loss of six wickets in 19 overs for a 2-1 series win in Lahore.

South Africa won the first match by 55 runs in Rawalpindi while Pakistan took the second by nine wickets, also in Lahore.

A full house of 32,000 at Gaddafi Stadium cheered the home boy Azam when he cracked three successive boundaries off Ottniel Baartman to reach his 37th half-century -- his first after 13 T20I innings.

Azam and Salman Agha (33) lifted Pakistan during a solid 76-run stand for the third wicket after Saim Ayub (nought) and Sahibzada Farhan (19) fell by the seventh over.

Babar Azam

Azam smashed nine boundaries but his dismissal to pacer Corbin Bosch put Pakistan in a spot of bother with Hasan Nawaz (five) and Mohammad Nawaz (nought) falling in quick succession.

Usman Khan, six not out, hit the winning single.

Brief scores: South Africa: 139/9 in 20 overs (Reeza Hendricks 34, Donovan Ferreira 29, Corbin Bosch 30 n.o.; Shaheen Afridi 3-26, Farheem Ashraf 2-28, Usman Tariq 2-26) lt to Pakistan: 140/6 in 19 overs (Babar Azam 68, Salman Agha 33; Corbin Bosch 2-24, Lizaad Williams 2-26). **Result:** Pakistan won by 4 wkts. **PoM:** Babar Azam. **3-match T20I series:** Pak won 2-1. **PoS:** Faheem Ashraf.

Williamson retires from T20Is

AUCKLAND, PTI: Charismatic batter and former New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson **(in pic)** on Sunday called time on his T20 International career days before the commencement of a five-match series against the touring West Indies.

Williamson, who played 93 T20I games for New Zealand, was recently appointed the strategic advisor for the IPL franchise Lucknow Super Giants for the 2026 season.

Following the announcement, the 35-year-old top-order batter was not included in the 14-member T20I squad for the series against the West Indies beginning here on Wednesday.

Williamson, who amassed 2575 runs T20Is but never scored a century, will also miss the ensuing ODI series to focus on the three Tests against the Caribbean side.

He retires as New Zealand's second-highest men's T20I runs-scorer at an average of 33, including 18 half-centuries and a highest score of 95.

Karun, Smaran pile on the runs

Karnataka batters score a double ton each to power team to 586/5 decl

BENGALURU, DHNS

Smaran R scored an unbeaten 220 on the second day of the Ranji Trophy fixture against Kerala on Sunday. DH FILE PHOTO

Karnataka's Karun Nair and Smaran R revelled in Kerala's new Ranji Trophy venue to send the hosts chasing leather on the second day of their third Elite Group B fixture at the KCA Cricket Ground in Mangalapuram on Sunday.

Karun eventually finished on 233 off 389 balls, reaching his fifth first-class double ton and second of the year, having made 204 against England Lions in Canterbury back in May.

Smaran, on the other hand, was unbeaten on 220 off 390 deliveries and celebrated his second first-class double hundred, in just his 16-innings-old career.

The duo stitched a 343-run partnership to help Karnataka reach 586 for five in 167 overs when the declaration came with an hour's play left.

Kerala, who were in desperate need of points, after having managed two in two games, suffered early blows and were reduced to 21 for three in 10 overs at stumps.

Vyshak Vijaykumar had opener Krishna Prasad caught off Aneesh KV in the fourth over while his partner in crime, Vidwath Kaverappa, knocked Nidheesh MD's poles in the seventh over.

Vidwath struck again in the penultimate over of the day, sending Vaishak Chandran back for nought.

Basil NP (11 not out) and Akshay Chandran (6 not out) saw Kerala through to the close, but they still trail Karnataka by a massive 565 runs and it will take some effort from their batting group to ensure that they reach 436 to avoid the follow-on.

Earlier, Karun, who had reached 142 overnight, recorded his second 150+ score of the season in the first hour and then went on to reach his double ton in the second session as the bowlers toiled hard without any rewards.

Smaran also continued from where he had left off to give the hosts a long and taxing day on the field.

Kerala had to wait till the 49th over of the day for their first breakthrough when Basil NP finally sent Karun back, caught off Shoun Roger.

SCOREBOARD

KARNATAKA (I Innings O/n: 319/3): Aneesh KV c Azharuddeen b Basil 8; Mayank Agarwal c Azharuddeen b Nidheesh 5; Shrijith KL c Ahammed b Aparajith 65; Karun Nair c Roger b Basil 233; Smaran R (not out) 220; Extras (B-8, LB-7, NB-3, W-1) 19; **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 167 overs) 586 decl.**

Fall of wickets: 1-13 (Agarwal), 2-13 (Aneesh), 3-136 (Shrijith), 4-479 (Karun), 5-534 (Abhinav).

Bowling: MD Nidheesh 25-7-65-1, Vaisakh Chandran 21-1-103-1, Nedumankuzhy Basil 32-3-101-2, Harikrishnan 25-1-114-0, Baba Aparajith 44-5-121-1, Akshay Chandran 20-0-67-0.

KERALA (I Innings): Krishna Prasad c Aneesh b Vyshak 4, NP Basil (batting) 11, MD Nidheesh b Vidwath 0, Vaisakh Chandran c Jose b Vidwath 0, Akshay Chandran (batting) 6. Extras 0. **TOTAL (for 3 wkts, 10 overs) 21.**

Fall of wickets: 1-9 (Krishna), 2-10 (Nidheesh), 3-14 (Vaishak).

Bowling: Vidwath Kaverappa 5-2-7-2, Vyshak Vijaykumar 5-2-14-1.

Group B brief scores: New Chandigarh: Punjab (O/n 215/5): 325 in 135.4 overs (Uday Saharan 126, Salil Arora 63, Prerit Dutta 29, Mayank Markande 25; Vasuki Koushik 2-51, Darshan Misal 3-72, Deepraj Gaonkar 3-34) vs Goa: 92/0 in 24 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 58 n.o., Manthan Khutkar 32 n.o.)

Indore: Madhya Pradesh (O/n: 64/1): 384/8 in 106 overs (Harsh Gawli 37, Himanshu Mantri 28, Harpreet Singh 116, Venkatesh Iyer 65, Aryan Pandey 40, Sagar Solanki 30 n.o., Arshad Khan 39; Jagjit Singh 5-69, Vishu Kashyap 2-80) vs Chandigarh.

Nasik: Saurashtra: 61/1 in 12 overs (Harvik Desai 28 n.o.) vs Maharashtra.

Execution is the key for Arshdeep

HOBART, PTI

Arshdeep Singh's incisive new-ball burst and ice-cool execution at the death powered India to a series-levelling win over Australia in the third T20 International here on Sunday, and the left-arm seamer credited a clear mind and hard training for his performance.

Arshdeep Singh

Arshdeep, who was named Player of the Match, said he has been focussing on clarity and consistency rather than trying too hard for results.

"I've just been working on my process, trusting my skills, and executing the plans I've practised," Arshdeep, who took three wickets for 35 runs, said after the game. It feels great to contribute when I get the chance. When someone like Bumrah is bowling from the other end, batters often take more risks against me, and that gives me wicket-taking opportunities.

"I just try to enjoy my bowling and keep things simple. No matter the situation — powerplay or death — I just focus on execution and stick to what I've practised."

India captain Suryakumar Yadav praised his side's balanced effort with both the bat and ball, calling the Bumrah-Arshdeep combination "lethal" and applauding the new players in the playing XI for stepping up.

"It was really important to win the toss. Good to break the streak and be on the winning side," Suryakumar said. "Those guys who came in today were practising really hard. This was a really good combination. Washy (Washington Sundar) is a flexible batter, and both Bumrah and Arshdeep are a lethal combination.

"Shubman and Abhishek are fire and ice; same for Bumrah and Arshdeep. Bumrah did his job brilliantly and Arshdeep was very clear with his plans."

Australia, asked to bat first, were restricted to 186 for 6.

Srishti wins third title in two weeks

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's 13-year-old tennis prodigy Srishti Kiran has continued her sensational run on the international junior circuit, clinching three titles in two weeks in the Dominican Republic. In the week of 20 October, she captured the singles title at the ITF J30 Cabarete, and followed it up the next week by sweeping both the singles and doubles crowns.

Srishti's unbeaten run saw her win every match in straight sets across the two events. She defeated Argentina's second seed Milagros Belen Laino 6-0, 6-3 in the semifinals before overpowering Canada's seventh seed Camille Michel 6-0, 6-1 in a dominant singles final performance.

Srishti Kiran

Rithvik SS Kumar (left) and Mansi Singh clinched the men's and women's titles respectively in Mangalore International Challenge badminton tournament on Sunday. DH PHOTOS/ FAKRUDDIN H

Rithvik, Mansi emerge champions in Mangaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rithvik SS Kumar and Mansi Singh emerged champions in the men's and women's singles categories at the Mangalore India International Challenge on Sunday.

Top seed Rithvik overcame a stiff challenge from compatriot Rounak Chouhan in a three-game final. After losing the opening game, he recovered to clinch the match 14-21, 21-19, 21-19, holding his composure in the closing stages of the decider.

In the women's singles, third seed Mansi defeated compatriot Ashmita Chaliha in straight games. She posted a 21-17, 22-20 win, edging out the second game in a tight finish.

Results (all finals, Indians unless mentioned): Men: Singles: Rithvik SS Kumar bt Rounak Chouhan 14-21, 21-19, 21-19; **Doubles:** Eng Keat Wesley Koh/Junsuke Kubo (SGP) bt Donovan Willard Wee/Jia Hao Howin Wong (SGP) 21-12, 21-17.

Women: Singles: Mansi Singh bt Ashmita Chaliha 21-17, 22-20; **Doubles:** Hathaithip Mijad/Napapakorn Tungkasatan (THA) bt Srinidhi Narayanan/Reshika Uthayasooriyan 21-7, 21-11.

Mixed doubles: Dhruv Rawat/Maneesha K bt Thanawin Madee and Napapakorn Tungkasatan (THA) 18-21, 21-18, 22-20.

Spirited West Ham win

LONDON, AFP

Nuno Espirito Santo celebrated his first win as West Ham manager on Sunday as his spirited team battled from behind to beat Newcastle 3-1 at the London Stadium.

The Hammers remain in the relegation zone after just their second Premier League win of the season but are now just three points behind 17th-placed Burnley, whom they play next week.

Eddie Howe's Newcastle took the lead courtesy of a fine early strike from Jacob Murphy but Lucas Paqueta levelled and an own goal from the unfortunate Sven Botman gave the home team the advantage at half-time.

Lucas Paqueta (left) celebrates after scoring West Ham's first goal in their 3-1 victory over Newcastle. AFP

Howe made wholesale changes at the break to revitalise his off-colour side and Newcastle dominated possession in the early stages, pinning West Ham back.

Liverpool sink Villa

Liverpool ended a four-game losing streak in the Premier League as Mohamed Salah scored his 250th goal for the club in a 2-0 win over Aston Villa on Saturday.

Results: West Ham: 3 (Paqueta 35th, Botman 45th+5 own goal, Souchek 90th+7) bt Newcastle United: 1 (Murphy 4th); Liverpool: 2 Salah 45th+1, Gravenberch 58th).

Mbappe helps Real Madrid extend lead

BARCELONA, AFP: Kylian Mbappe struck twice as Real Madrid romped to a 4-0 win over Valencia on Saturday to move seven points clear at the top of La Liga.

Villarreal continued their strong start to the season by thrashing Rayo Vallecano 4-0 to climb above champions Barcelona into second place provisionally.

Atletico Madrid earned a comfortable 3-0 win over Sevilla to tighten their grip on fourth and pull level on points with champions Barca, who host Elche on Sunday looking to cut Madrid's lead back to five points.

After Mbappe's double Jude Bellingham and Alvaro Carreras also scored.

ODI WORLD CUP FINAL

Queens of cricket: Indian women are WORLD CHAMPIONS

Shafali's spark, Deepti's spunk power hosts to 52-run win over S Africa

G KRISHNAN
NAVI MUMBAI

The Indian women created history on Sunday. Harmanpreet Kaur and her team were crowned the new world champions, making their home World Cup a memorable one.

In winning the title in their third entry to the final, India overcame the pressure of expectations from the entire nation. A tournament that saw them go through a roller coaster ride, India peaked at the right time in the back end of the tournament to win crucial matches and emerge triumphant in style. Harmanpreet joined the illustrious list of Indian cricket captains to have led the nation to World Cup glory. In becoming the first Indian woman to lift the global trophy, she joined Kapil Dev, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Rohit Sharma as the leaders who led in exemplary manner and scripted golden chapters in Indian cricket history.

The Indian team avenged the defeat suffered at the hands of South Africa in the league phase by drowning them by 52 runs. Thus, no team has beaten the same opposition twice in this tournament.

While SA did well to restrict India to 298/7 after winning the toss, their batters did not provide enough support to their captain Laura Wolvaardt, who played a lone fiddle while posting her second successive hundred, 101. Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits gave a sound start with a 51-run stand in the Power Play. But, the brilliant introduction of part-timer off-break bowler Shafali Verma in the 21st over put India on the victory path. In each of her first two overs, Verma dismissed dangerous batters Sune Luus and Marizanne Kapp, the former caught and bowled while the latter was held down the leg side.

The SA skipper kept her calm throughout, and Annerie Dercksen, who was the dominant partner, still kept SA in the race. They shared an even-ball 61 for the sixth wicket before Dercksen was yorked by Deepti.

And, when Deepti struck twice in the 42nd over, removing Wolvaardt and trapping Chloe Tryon leg before, it was a matter of when India were going to lay their hands on the coveted trophy. Fittingly, it was the Deepti-Harmanpreet combine that clinched the match.

Playing on the same surface on which India posted 340/3 against New Zealand ten days ago, the hosts began emphatically through a 104-run partnership between Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma.

However, both the openers missed their individual milestones, Mandhana falling for 45 and Verma, 13 short of her maiden WODI hundred. Verma played most of her strokes in the power play, hitting five fours inside eight overs but was kept quiet by the disciplined South African bowling. The Proteas' ground fielding was top-notch but their catching was dismal, Anneke Bosch dropping two offerings in the deep and Wolvaardt, one.

In the 14 overs between eighth and 22nd, Verma could not find a single boundary barring a six straight down the ground off medium-pacer Nadine de Klerk. In this period, India lost their highest scorer of the tournament (434 runs), Mandhana for 45.

Deepti took it upon herself to bat till the end as she has been doing in this tournament.

Indian players celebrate with the ICC Women's ODI World Cup Trophy after beating South Africa in Navi Mumbai. REUTERS

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Smriti c Jafta b Tryon	45
Shafali c Luus b Khaka	87
Jemimah Wolvaardt b Khaka	24
Harmanpreet b Mlaba	20
Deepti (run out)	58
Amanjot c&b de Klerk	12
Richa c Dercksen b Khaka	34
Radha (not out)	3
Extras (LB-2, NB-1, W-12)	15
TOTAL (for 7 wickets, 50 overs)	**298**

Fall of wickets: 1-104 (Smriti), 2-166 (Shafali), 3-171 (Jemimah), 4-223 (Harmanpreet), 5-245 (Amanjot), 6-292 (Richa), 7-298 (Deepti).

Bowling: Kapp 10-1-59-0, Khaka 9-0-58-3, Mlaba 10-0-47-1, De Klerk 9-0-52-1, Luus 5-0-34-0, Tryon 7-0-46-1

SOUTH AFRICA

Wolvaardt c Amanjot b Deepti	101
Brits (run out)	23
Bosch lbw b Charani	0
Luus c & b Shafali	25
Kapp c Ghosh b Shafali	4
Jafta c Radha b Deepti	16
Dercksen b Deepti	35
Tryon lbw b Deepti	9
De Klerk c Harmanpreet b Deepti	18
Khaka (run out)	1
Mlaba (not out)	0
Extras (W-12, NB-2)	14
TOTAL (all out, 45.3 overs)	**246**

Fall of wickets: 1-51 (Brits), 2-62 (Bosch), 3-114 (Luus), 4-123 (Kapp), 5-148 (Jafta), 6-209 (Dercksen), 7-220 (Wolvaardt), 8-221 (Tryon), 9-246 (Khaka)

Bowling: Renuka 8-0-28-0, Gaud 3-0-16-0, Amanjot 4-0-34-0, Deepti 9.3-0-39-5, Charani 9-0-48-1, Radha 5-0-45-0, Shafali 7-0-36-2.

RESULT: **INDIA WON BY 52 RUNS**

POM: **SHAFALI VERMA**

POS: **DEEPTI SHARMA**

Shafali's redemption song

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

From going out-of-favour to being named as a last-minute replacement for a home World Cup, Shafali Verma's **(in pic)** journey has been a fairytale return to where she belonged.

The 21-year-old probably would have been watching her teammates in action in a potentially era-defining World Cup final at her home in Haryana, let alone playing it after being left out of the squad due to the inconsistent returns in the 50-over format.

However, having been handed an opportunity as an injury replacement to open the batting with Smriti Mandhana, Shafali justified the faith the selectors and the team management had reposed in her, with a brisk 87 off 78 deliveries, lacing it with seven fours and two sixes against South Africa at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Sunday, not allowing the pressure to get to her after being dismissed cheaply against Australia in the semifinal for just 10.

She also proved her all-round credentials, picking up wickets of Marizanne Kapp and Sune Luus. After receiving a late call-up to the touring party after Pratika Rawal was ruled out, having suffered a hairline fracture on her ankle in India's final league game against Bangladesh, Shafali was summoned to Mumbai from Surat while in the middle of a National Women's T20 event where she was captaining Haryana.

Shafali came into the tournament on the back of a string of good scores against Australia A and then had followed it up with a 70 against New Zealand in Bengaluru. In her last appearance for Haryana, she scored 55 in just 24 balls.

While the ODI numbers do not have a pretty viewing – 644 runs in 29 games – the 21-year-old made sure she grabbed her lifeline.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FINAL

• The **104-run** partnership between **Shafali Verma** and **Smriti Mandhana** was India's first century partnership for all wickets in Women's Cricket World Cup finals and the second-highest opening partnership in World Cup finals.

• At **21 years** and **78 days** of age, Shafali became the youngest female player to score a **half-century** in a World Cup final. The previous youngest was Australia's Jess Duffin at 23yrs, 235 days when she scored 75 against West Indies in the 2013 Final.

• **Shafali 87** would be the highest score by an Indian batter in a Women's Cricket World Cup final; the previous highest was Punam Raut's 86 (made against England in 2017).

Highest scores in World Cup finals

Score	By	Vs	Year
170	A Healy (Aus)	Eng	2017
148*	N Sciver-Brunt (Eng)	Aus	2017
107*	K Rolton (Aus)	Ind	2005
101	L Wolvaardt (SA)	Ind	2025
91	B Clark (Aus)	NZ	2000
87	S Verma (Ind)	SA	2025

Laura Wolvaardt (571 runs) set a new record for the most runs scored by a batter in a single edition of the Women's World Cup, surpassing the previous record of 509 set by Australa's Alyssa Healy in 2022.

Deepti Sharma's 5-39 is only the second 5-wicket haul in a Women's World Cup final

With her **45** in the Final on Sunday, **Smriti Mandhana** extended her tally to **434** - the highest aggregate for an Indian batter in one particular edition of the World Cup.

India's highest aggregates in WC finals

Runs	Player	Year
434	**S Mandhana**	**2025**
409	M Raj	2017
381	P Raut	2017
359	H Kaur	2017

TURNING POINTS IN FINAL

- **The top-order** gave a solid foundation to set up a competitive total.
- **Shafali Verma's** blitz provided a good start and her twin blows early in the innings pegged back the chase.
- **Besides a fifty,** Deepti Sharma gave regular breakthroughs, including the wickets of centurion Laura Wolvaardt and the dangerous Nadine de Klerk to swing the game decisively in India's favour.
- **Despite a few** misfields and dropped catches, India's fielding stood out in the finals, reflected in two run-outs.

Compiled by **Arun Gopalakrishnan**

WHAT THEY SAID

I don't know how to react to that. Still sinking in. have not been emotional on a cricket field. But a very unreal moment. Home World Cup, and to just read that "champions India", very unreal moment.

SMRITI MANDHANA

I said at the start that God has sent me here to do something nice, and that reflected today. Very happy that we won and I cannot express it in words. It was difficult (join team at short notice) but I had confidence in myself that if I can stay calm, I could achieve everything.

SHAFALI VERMA

Honestly, this is feeling like a dream because we have not been able to come out of that emotion. Feeling really nice I could contribute this way in a World Cup final. We have always thought about how we can use the takeaways from every match.

DEEPTI SHARMA

Williams' brace powers BFC

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru FC thrashed Gokulam Kerala FC 4-0 in Group C of the AIFF Super Cup 2025-26 at the PJN Stadium, Fatorda (Goa) on Sunday.

Ryan Williams helped the Blues establish an early lead, scoring early in each half to secure his brace, while Vinith Venkatesh (44') and Sunil Chhetri (61') scored a goal each in the first and the second half, respectively, to put their side joint-top of the Group C table, with six points from two matches. Bengaluru are level with Punjab FC, not only in terms of points, but also in goal difference and goals scored.

Wasting no time from the outset, Bengaluru began on the front foot, taking control and pressing high. The breakthrough arrived in the seventh minute through Australian forward Williams, who latched onto a long pass from Sirojiddin Kuziev, controlled it with a little touch and then slotted a low shot past Gokulam Kerala keeper Rakshit Dagar into the bottom left corner, giving the Blues an early lead.

BFC continued pressing high up the pitch, with Braian Sanchez and Taorem Kelvin Singh combining smartly to create changes.

Results: Gokulam Kerala: 0 It to Bengaluru FC 4 (Ryan Williams 7th, 47th, Vinith Venkatesh 44th, Sunil Chhetri 61st).

Sunil Chhetri

CRICKET FOUR-DAY GAME

India A's tail stings Proteas

Suthar, Kamboj stay firm to guide hosts to nervy 3-wicket win after Pant's 90

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

India A batters hit the self-destruction button for a second successive time but fortunately for them there wasn't any extensive damage as some grit from their lower-order colleagues saw them edge a determined South Africa A by three wickets in the opening game of the four-day affair here on Sunday.

After starting the final day confidently and cruising along at one stage in pursuit of 275, India A found themselves in deep trouble at 215/7 when Rishabh Pant (90), Tanush Kotian (23) and Ayush Badoni (23) threw their wickets away to South Africa A's short-ball strategy at BCCI's Centre of Excellence.

Still needing 60 runs and South Africa A's second-change pacers Tiaan van Vuuren (3/56) and Lutho Sipamla (1/37) dishing out a copious amount of chin music, Manav Suthar (20 n.o.) and Anshul Kamboj (37 n.o.) showed the discipline the top and middle order batters lacked in forging an unbroken 58-run stand for the eighth wicket to carry the hosts home.

The way wicketkeeper Pant kicked off the proceedings in the morning, where India A resumed on 119/4, a finish before lunch seemed imminent.

India A skipper Rishabh Pant was out after a well-made 90 against South Africa on the final day. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR PS

The India A skipper stepped down to pacer Okuhle Cele the second ball of the day and smashed him for a one-handed six over extra over. He then guided the pacer through the third man region for two boundaries as 14 runs came in the first over. It was exactly what India A wanted.

Pant continued to bat aggressively while his partner Badoni nicely alternated between defence and attack to help India A motor along smoothly. That's when South Africa chose to shake things up. Realising the full and good length balls were easy meat for Pant, they started to bang the balls short. Pant, who loves stepping down to pacers, couldn't execute those big shots. Feeling tied down, something had to give away and it happened in the 49th over. Pant charged at a short ball from van Vuuren and he ended up top-edging to Lesego Senokwane at slips.

Even after Pant's departure, the Proteas stuck to the short-ball ploy. Skipper Marques Ackerman kept fielders in the deep on the leg-side, nicely dangling the carrot to Badoni and new man Tanush Kotian. And the duo bit the bait to open the door for South Africa A. First Badoni perished in the 53rd over, his hook landing nicely into the hands of Tshepo Moreki at deep square leg. Six overs later, Kotian tried the same and the result was almost the same, Vuuren snapping up a simple catch at deep fine leg off Sipamla.

Smelling blood, the Proteas went full tilt against Suthar and Kamboj with a mix of short and full-length ones. But both Suthar and Kamboj were game for the challenge, showing wonderful application to defy the South Africans. Kamboj smacked a couple of sixes to ease the pressure while Suthar primarily focussed on defence. Together they kept chipping away at the target steadily before helping India cross the line a little after lunch.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA A (I Innings): 309
INDIA A (I Innings): 234
SOUTH AFRICA A: 199
INDIA A (II Innings, O/n: 119/4): B Sai Sudharsan lbw Moreki 12 (38b, 2x4), Ayush Mhatre b Moreki 6 (9b, 1x4), Devdutt Padikkal 5 (15b, 1x4), Rajat Patidar c Moonsamy b Vuuren 28 (87b, 5x4), Rishabh Pant c Senokwane b Vuuren 90 (113b, 11x4, 4x6), Ayush Badoni c Moreki b Vuuren 34 (47b, 4x4), Tanush Kotian c Vuuren b Sipamla 23 (30b, 2x4), Manav Suthar (not out) 20 (56b, 3x4), Anshul Kamboj (not out) 37 (46b, 4x4, 2x6). Extras (B-5, LB-6, W-9, NB-2) 22. **TOTAL (for 7 wkts, 73.1 overs) 277**.
Fall of wickets: 1-12 (Mhatre), 2-19 (Padikkal), 3-32 (Sudharsan), 4-119 (Patidar), 5-172 (Pant), 6-195 (Bodoni), 7-215 (Kotian).
Bowling: Tshepo Moreki 14-2-33-2, Okuhle Cele 12-1-64-1, Prenelan Subrayen 21.1-8-76-0, Lutho Sipamla 14-3-37-1, Tiaan van Vuuren 12-2-56-3.
Result: India A won by 3 wkts.
Series: India A lead 2-match series 1-0.
PoM: Tanush Kotian.
Second game: Nov 6-9 (BCCI's CoE).

Pranav, Ganguly advance; Divya makes early exit

MANISHA MOHITE

Once again it was a day of mixed fortunes as six Indians, Pranav Anand, the reigning World Junior Champion, Surya Shekhar Ganguly, Raunak Sadhwani, Kartik Venkatraman, Iniyan Pa, and Pranesh M advanced to the second round of the FIDE World Cup 2025 at Resort Rio in Goa.

Aronyak Ghosh, Raja Ritvik, Diptayan Ghosh, Lalith Babu M R, S L Narayanan will fight it out in the tie-breaks on Monday with an eye on the second round which starts Tuesday.

In the most sensational upset of the day, 19-year-old local lad, GM Leon Luke Mendonca, was knocked out of the event by lower rated IM Shixu Wang B of China. Reigning Women's World Cup winner Divya Deshmukh was also eliminated by higher rated GM Stamatis Kourkoulos of Greece. Divya smarting from a loss on Saturday, did put up a valiant fight but Stamatis, with solid play, picked up the point after 76 moves of a Pirc defence game.

Neelash Saha, Himal Gusain, Harshvardhan GB were the other Indians who were eliminated. If it can be recalled India had started with 16 players in the first round and eight more are directly seeded into Round 2.

Pranav and Ganguly were easily the pick of the Indian players, notching two successive victories. IM Ghosh was the only Indian to score an upset victory against higher ranked GM Mateusz Bartel of Poland after losing to him in the first game on Saturday.

14-year-old Erdogmus Yagiz Kaan also blanked out his opponent 2-0 on a day when maximum higher rated players prevailed. Vassily Ivanchuk, Michael Adams, Etienne Bacrot, Maxstein Rodshtein were some of the prominent players who breezed through.

Ganguly advanced with a 2-0 score against Ahmad Ahmadzada in a French Defence game lasting 28 moves. Ganguly castled on queen side and invaded through the King side where his opponent had castled. His queen and bishop set up a checkmating net

Pranav and Ala Eddine Boulrens fought it out in a Italian two knights opening. Boulrens sacrificed his queen for two rooks but an erratic rook move on the 37th turn cost him the game.

Divya Deshmukh during her loss to Greece's GM Stamatis Kourkoulos-Arditis at the FIDE World Cup on Sunday. FIDE

Sinner reclaims world No. 1 after Paris title

PARIS, AFP: Jannik Sinner won the Paris Masters for the first time by defeating Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) on Sunday as the four-time Grand Slam champion reclaimed his position atop the world rankings.

Jannik Sinner

The 24-year-old's maiden crown in Paris, coupled with incumbent world No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz of Spain crashing out early in the tournament, will see Sinner return to the pinnacle of men's tennis when the ATP rankings are updated on Monday. Earlier, he claimed the No. 1 ranking in June last year and held it for 65 weeks.

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